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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

December 5th—11th, 1985
Volume 20, Number 48

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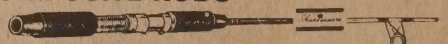

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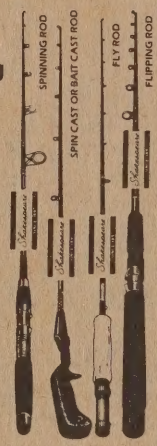

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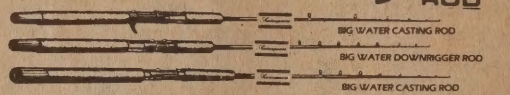

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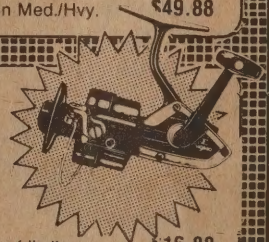

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 20, Number 48 December 5th, 1985

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Steelhead action is building to a peak in the Salmon River region and scores of Metro area anglers are finding the long trek north a rewarding one. You'll find some advice on how to be successful at this specialized game on page 22. Cover photo by Dick Mermon.

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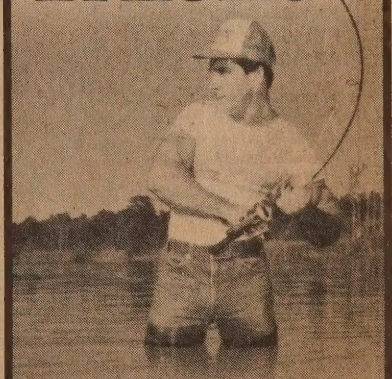

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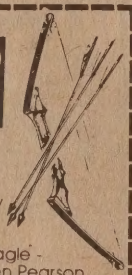

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EDITORIAL

FISHERMEN & TOWN OF BABYLON WORKING TOGETHER

Most surf fishermen are well aware of this century's trend towards loss of beach access. There are many reasons for this trend, not the least of which has been the conversion of open beach front into private property and the social problems stemming from larger Island populations. These social aberrations include vandalism, drug abuse on park lands, dune destruction, and rising costs of maintenance.

These problems, if left unaddressed, result in a loss of access for law-abiding citizens. Surf fishermen have screamed for years that better enforcement was the key to minimizing these problems and that it was the responsibility of government to provide that enforcement. This does not mean that taxpayers, and fishermen in particular, are blind to the problems government officials must contend with. Yet, the pattern of interaction between surf fishermen and government has tended to be abrasive because government officials may not completely understand the concerns of surf fishermen and because surf fishermen have not had access to important information that would permit understanding and consideration for the problems of government. Communication thus becomes the key to successful interaction between government on all levels and their constituents.

We proved that opening the lines of communication can bring benefits to all parties involved, and at the same time, allow for the development of sound working relationships. The establishment of the Fishing Advisory Board with the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission has brought benefits to surf fishermen and the Commission alike. Initially, both sides were cautious about the motives of the other, but as time passed and the Commission began to understand the needs and problems of the surf fishermen better, and as fishermen came to see the problems from the perspective of the Commission, we got down to work. We addressed issues of use, vandalism, costs, as well as seeking ways to allow the Commission to provide services to users with ever-reducing manpower and budgets. Together we have succeeded in reducing vandalism, increasing access, diminishing abuses, and developing a more dynamic and useful permit system.

The subject of this editorial is a recent cooperative involvement with the Town of Babylon, yet the perspective of history relative to our cooperative efforts with the Commission is an important prelude. The LISPRC venture serves as a model for similar efforts with town governments and government agencies. The precedent recently found fertile soil with officials of the Town of Babylon. Pushed by declining budget lines, rising costs, the aftermath of Hurricane Gloria, and the pressure of a small percentage of people who misuse the beaches, the Town of Babylon closed Overlook Beach. Both Cedar Beach and Overlook Beach were closed to night fishing over a decade ago. However, both beaches had been open to day access, from dawn to dusk, after Labor Day.

We received a number of calls here about this closure and we approached the Town of Babylon about the matter. To their credit, town officials were receptive to our ideas and suggestions. After several phone conversations with those involved, a meeting was set up to discuss the matter. At the meeting, information was exchanged and both the town and our group formulated a plan to open Overlook Beach for daytime access.

The plan calls for access to Overlook Beach to be available via Cedar Beach and the road that connects both beaches in servicing the golf course. The beach is open to town residents only at about 6AM and is closed at 5PM. A Town of Babylon sticker is required, and the sticker can be obtained at Town Hall between normal business hours. We remind all fishermen who use this access to be careful not to litter and to remove yourself and vehicle before the 5PM closure. Enjoy this access, but respect it, too.

We are sure that these were not easy decisions for the town, and we applaud their insight and foresight. We hope to begin working closely with the Town of Babylon officials this winter on problems and concerns of mutual interest.

Special appreciation and thanks to Town Supervisor Anthony Noto and Commissioner of Department of Environmental Control, Dennis Lynch, for their thoughtful concern and cooperative attitude. Also special thanks to Senator Owen Johnson and Mr. Dominic JacAngelo for their guidance, concerned involvement, and unique ideas that made a positive and meaningful solution possible.

William A. Muller

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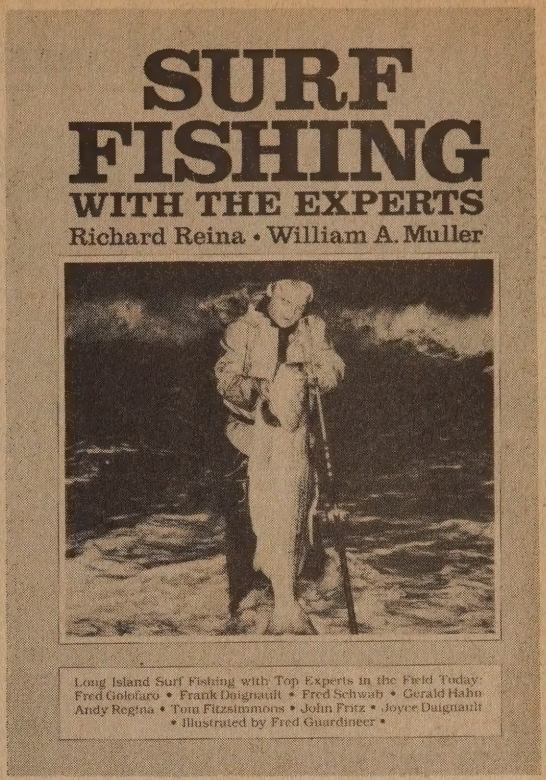
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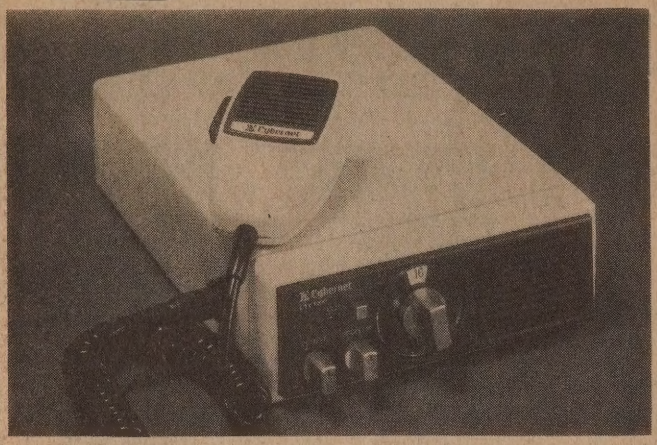

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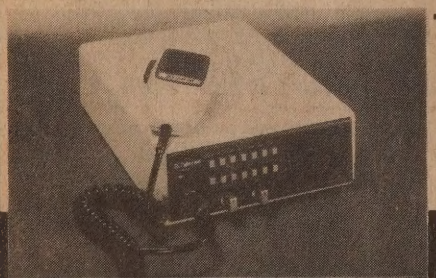

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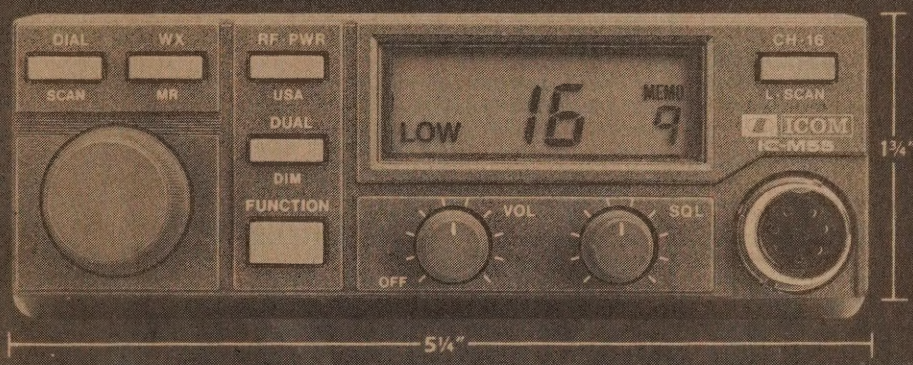

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★ PRODUCT REVIEW ★

AFTCO STAR SET CONVERSION

by Pete Barrett

AFTCO Manufacturing Company has come up with a simple to install conversion kit that changes a star drag reel into a lever drag reel. Called "Star Set," the conversion allows the angler to pre-set the drag, then change it to allow for changing fishing conditions, and then to return to the original drag setting at any time.

This ability to set the drag, change it at will while fighting a fish and to then return to the original setting is very important to big game anglers who troll or who use light lines when fighting big fish.

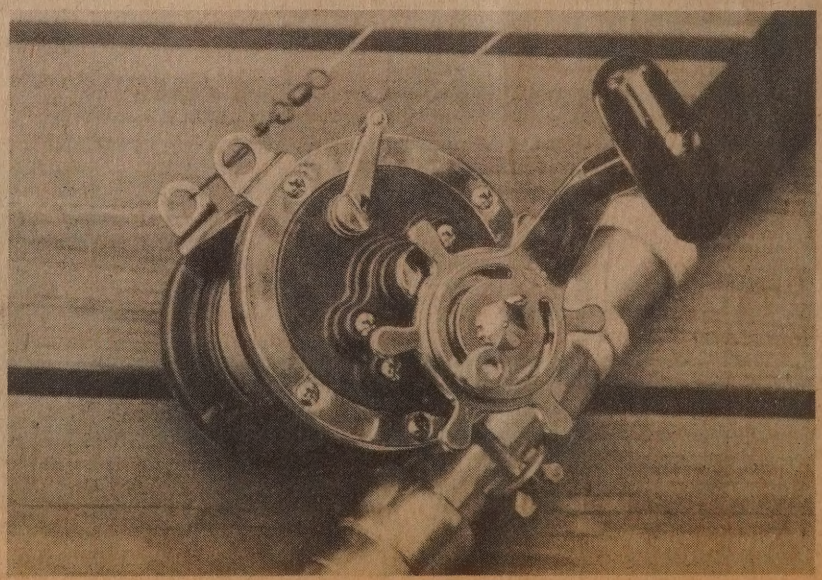
Tuna trollers will want to set the drag at a fish fighting setting of about 30 percent of the breaking strength of the line, yet if that same setting is used while trolling a high speed lure the initial power of the strike could exceed the impact level that the line can withstand. With a resounding "snap" the line will part; the fish and lure lost.

With the Star Set, the tuna troller would set the drag at the fighting setting, then back off the star wheel to decrease the maximum drag setting down to about 15 percent of the pound test of the line. The line is now protected from excessive impact strain at the strike. Once the fish is on, the boat slowed and decks cleared, the Star Set drag can be rotated to return accurately to the 30 percent setting.

The fighting drag may have to be modified while playing the fish. Big game fish like marlin, brute makos, bigeye or bluefin tuna that take a lot of line, place extra tension on the line due to the resistance of the line as it gets pulled through the water. This added tension might exceed the pound test of the line and cause it to break. With Star Set, the drag can be momentarily decreased to allow for this excess line in the water. As the angler gains line the drag setting can be increased until the fighting drag is once again in use.

When a big fish is brought to boat, it may be necessary to momentarily loosen the drag to prepare for any unexpected moves as the fish is leadered into gaffing reach. Star Set allows the angler to loosen the drag to be prepared in case the fish makes a sudden move away. The line is protected from shock by the loose drag. Once the fish is clear of the boat, the original fight drag is dialed in again.

The Star Set consists of a replacement handle and star wheel, and for some conversions, a spacer washer. The instructions that come packaged



with the kit are clear and easy to understand and the actual conversion takes only minutes to complete. The only tools required are a screwdriver to remove the handle lock screw, and the reel wrench that came packed with the reel to remove the handle lock nut. If you don't have the reel wrench, careful use of pliers would remove the handle nut.

After removing the reel handle, unscrew the original star drag wheel. Install the Star Set star wheel by screwing it on the threaded main shaft until the *maximum* drag setting you intend to use is achieved. You will have to hold the reel in your left hand with a firm grasp on the spool to turn the star wheel to a high setting. On some reels, the main shaft may spin and you will have to momentarily place the handle on the shaft while turning the star wheel.

Install the new handle by first loosening the locking knob, slide it clockwise in the groove on the new handle and finger tighten it. Now mount the new handle making sure the locking knob is on the right side of the channel on the star drag wheel. If not, rotate the handle 180 degrees.

Re-install the handle lock nut and locking set screw. Adjust the drag by first turning the star wheel clockwise to set the actual maximum drag you want. It is best to do this with a hand scale. Move the locking knob counterclockwise in the handle groove to the end of the channel and tighten it. This sets the maximum drag setting.

To decrease the drag setting, either for trolling or while playing a fish, turn the star wheel counterclockwise. You should also decrease the drag in-between fishing trips.

I've used AFTCO Star Sets on a pair of Daiwa 400H reels used for shark fishing and light tuna trolling. The replacement parts from AFTCO match the high quality of the original factory parts, are well finished with no burrs or sharp edges and showed no signs of corrosion or wear marks from scuffing after several months use.

The length of the handle from the center of the main gear post to the handle knob was slightly shorter than the factory original and makes for better control of the reel. Despite popular opinion that "longer handles mean more power," the fact remains the only power that can be applied is dictated by the drag setting itself, not the length of the handle. I found the slightly shorter handle to be more comfortable and made the reel feel better balanced as line was retrieved.

The handle knob is high quality molded plastic and offers the advantage of being removable for lubrication and replacement.

Now you don't have to spend several hundred dollars for a lever drag reel. The Star Set is available for over 70 of the famous Penn star drag and Senator reels, plus the Daiwa Sealine 50H and 300H to 900H models.

Manufactured by AFTCO, 17351-B Murphy Ave., Irvine, CA 92714.

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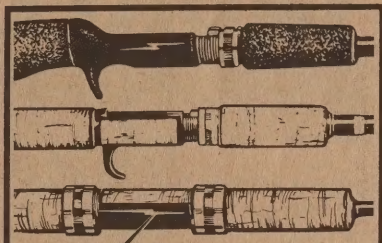

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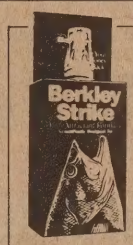

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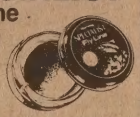

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Editor's Note: A few weeks back we received a letter from a subscriber requesting info on how to fix a loose reel seat. We passed along a couple of methods we've used with good success when making repairs to lightweight tackle or freshwater rods. But, we did fail to mention a trick that is used by many "home mechanics" to repair a loose reel seat. Subscriber Joe Palkovics brought it to our attention, and here's the way he fixes reel seats for himself and other fishing friends:

Drill a 1/8 inch hole through the reel seat and rod blank at the butt end of the reel seat and "pin" it with a regular Pop Rivet. According to Joe, he has repaired rods using this method that have given good service for ten years after being repaired. It's certainly worth a try when repairing heavy ocean style reel seats, but I would not attempt to drill a hole as large as 1/8 inch in one of those wispy graphite ultra-lights. For those, we'll stick with our previous recommendations.

* * *

Dear Doc,

RE: letter, Vol. 12, No. 40. John Whitmore.

It has always been my opinion that to rub any lubricant such as hair oil, the oil from the side of your nose, or any other lube such as WD-40, etc., on a ferrule would create a tighter seal by making a vacuum inside the ferrule and make them even harder to pull apart. I have always kept my rods and ferrules as clean as possible and never had a problem taking any of my rods apart. Sincerely, *Lindy Blaisdell.*

Dear Lindy,

You are correct up to a point. We've used some of the heavier lubricants and had them cause severe jamming of the rod sections and we have also used the time-honored method of rubbing the male ferrule behind an ear or along the side of our nose and not had any problem with the pieces sticking.

I, too, use Vaseline to keep the two piece rods lubricated but after each application of Vaseline we wipe the ferrule clean so only a very light film remains to keep the male ferrule slippery.

It's very easy to jam a two piece fiberglass or graphite rod by forcing the two parts together. Most problems occur because of this and the addition of some light lubricating oil or grease will help in separating the rod sections. But as you state, it does pay to keep the parts as clean and free of grit as possible.

Metal ferrules will certainly jam quicker than the fiberglass or graphites since the metal ferrule is made so the male piece fits into the female ferrule and the end of this part is closed which keeps excess grease or oil from escaping and, in turn, causes a vacuum to form in the ferule. Fiberglass and graphite ferrules are usually open ended and do not trap grease or oil.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I am back with another problem. A downrigger was added to my boatload of goodies and therein lies my problem. When trolling at various depths and speeds I get a high pitch whining sound that rings through the aluminum hull like you would not believe. Needless to say, my success with my new toy has left a little to be desired. That noise must scare the dickens out of the fish if it travels down the cable to my release clip.

The downrigger is a Cannon Mini-Mag and I mounted it on the side of the boat, thinking that while trolling I could watch the Humminbird 2000 LCR and track the downrigger at the same time. Cannon lists the side mount as one of the possibilities in downrigger mounting.

I just don't know who to ask, so thank God for the Tackle Doctor.

Lenny Szarek.

Dear Lenny,

You mention something in your letter about ancestry, but I deleted that part of your letter to avoid being chastised by my fellow writers and fishermen.

To briefly answer your question: there is nothing you can do to alleviate the humming. We have had several different makes of downriggers and found the same complaint with each.

There is a reason for the high pitched whine. When you drop the downrigger cable with a 10 to 15 pound weight attached, it is tight as a bow string. As you move forward you increase that pressure until the hum-

ming noise becomes almost too much to bear. The faster you troll, the higher the whine and even when trolling at a moderate speed in a strong wind you will get the same effect.

Add to this the fact that you have an aluminum hull and the problem is magnified tenfold. Again, we had a set of manual downriggers on our 14 and 18 foot aluminum boats and they did sing a song that about drove us bonkers.

We called Cannon to get their ideas and were told the humming sound is all too common. I could get smart and suggest earmuffs, but that's going a bit too far.

You might want to substitute nylon cord in place of the cable. It will definitely abrade and you may in time lose a downrigger weight or two, but with the nylon you will not get that ear-shattering high pitched whine each time you troll. Unfortunately, the nylon may be of greater diameter and this will cut down on the amount of line capacity on the spool. Either way, with the cable and its tendency to give off a troublesome hum, or with the nylon line, you give a little to gain a little.

We tried changing the downrigger weights. At one point we had the fish shaped weights and still had excessive noise, so we went back to the standard ball type with keel which is sold by Cannon. Both hummed their aggravating song, so we now have the standard weights and concentrate on catching fish rather than listening to a song we don't really like.

You also mention the Humminbird LCR 2000 and how easy it is to use. We had the LCR 2000 for one season and now have an LCR 4000 mounted alongside the chart recorder. As you note, the LCR units are a joy to use because of their simplicity.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I know this is not exactly a tackle problem, but I keep my tackle on my boat—that's what I'm writing about.

Several years ago I purchased a 1973 Winner Baronette IV cuddy cabin outboard. The previous owner did not have the original manual or brochures that came with the boat and Winner has since gone out of business.

Could you tell me where I could possibly get some sort of an owner's manual for this boat? Even the name of the organization that purchased the assets of Winner would be helpful and I could follow through on that basis.

By the way, I thoroughly enjoy your responses to questions in The Fisherman. Please keep up the good work.

Hans P. Hover.

Dear Hans,

Thanks for the vote of confidence. It is appreciated. As to your immediate problem: Winner Boats is still in business and should be able to provide you with the information you require. Contact them at Winner Boats, P.O. Box 250, Dickson, TN 37055.

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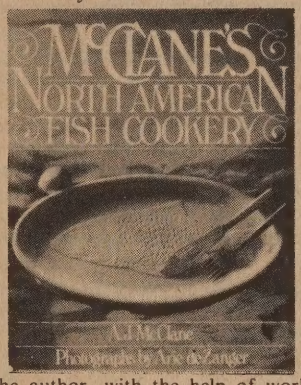

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by Pete Barrett

These cooperative scrappers provide fine sport despite the chill of winter weather.

Whiting are perhaps one of the most underfished sport fish along the New York to Delaware Coast. Protected by cold weather, there are relatively few anglers who brave the cold blasts from the north to spend even a half day on the water looking to put together a good catch of whiting.

Yet, the fishing can be exceptionally good. The party boat fleets from the Highlands to Atlantic City sail almost daily, weather permitting, all winter long and the catches are usually good.

For private boaters the chore of winterizing the boat and getting it properly stored before the first snow of winter often takes priority over any chance of fishing in December. Still, if you can hold off for just a week or two more, the opportunity for some real good action is within easy reach.

Whiting are "officially" known as the silver hake and are a close cousin of the cod family. During the summer they spend their time in the cooler waters of 25 to 50 fathoms but begin to head inshore in November. By December the fishing can be good at places like the Mud Hole, the Slough, the Klondike, Tolten Lump, Barnegat Ridge, the Lobster Hole, AC Ridge, Five Fathom Bank and Jack's Spot. Depending on the weather and water temperature the fish can be found in 45 to 120 feet of water.

The longer the inshore water remains warm, the longer it will take for the whiting to get in close to shore and that's where the most fun fishing takes place. Whiting can be caught in huge numbers in deep water, but since they only weigh a pound or two on the average, they don't have much chance to yank on a line that has an 8 ounce sinker on the end to get the bait down deep.

I favor the inshore grounds because the shallower water lets you use 3 to 5 ounces and lighter tackle. The fishing is admittedly not as good as the deep water catches unless the inshore waters get cold by early December.

I use the same tackle I use for fluke: an old Ugly Stik and Penn 940 conventional reel with 12 pound line. The light line gets down quickly and even in the cold December air it doesn't get as stiff feeling as much heavier line.

Party boaters call big whiting "baseball bats" and each year there are some fish that may touch the 4 or 5 pound mark on the scales. The largest one that ever came into my boat was caught while trolling for striped bass off the Shrewsbury Rocks. That whiting was like the mouse that roared and it hit the trailing tube on an umbrella rig. No, it didn't take any line; in fact we thought the rig had fouled bottom or grabbed some weeds and were surprised to see the whiting dangling on their tube, exhausted. It measured 23 inches long and weighed 4½ lbs. on the scales.

Most whiting, however, will rarely go over 4 lbs. and the average weight

Rich Barrett hoists an average size whiting into boat.

is probably something like 2 lbs. Few anglers ever bother to weigh them, only the largest get attention as pool winners.

A lot of different baits can be used for whiting and I generally use whatever is still left over in the freezer from the summer and fall. It's clean out time and I use whatever is handy. Squid cut into strips is excellent, so is mackerel belly, whiting belly and herring. I've also used sand eels, spearing and killies if that's all that was easy to grab off the freezer shelf.

The rig I like to use is shown in the diagram. I've used rigs with as many as five hooks and as few as two hooks. The three hook rig is the one I've settled on. Since I use 12 lb. test line, the five hook rig can cause broken lines. Monofilament stiff from the cold air gets brittle and the five hook if loaded with five 2 lb. whiting can break easily. If you want the 5 hook rig, use heavier line.

The less hardware the better, so avoid three way swivels and too many snaps. Use dropper loops or surgeon's loops to make the loops to attach the hooks. The surgeon's loop is best to make the loops at the top and bottom end of the rig for the sinker and to attach the main fishing line.

The rig may have to be adjusted depending on the depth of the fish. Whiting will usually be found close to the bottom, showing up on the recorder as scratches a few feet off the bottom line. I've seen some times, though, when the fish would be marked 5 to 10 feet off the bottom. When this happens you can either make the rig longer to move the hooks higher or try working the standard rig off the bottom a few feet.

Twenty, 30 or 40 pound test is okay for the rigs, but use standard leader material as sold in most tackle shops. I like the lengths that are stored in tubes so the leader is straight and has no memory coil in it. The air temp is so cool I even store my whiting rigs hung from a grab rail with sinker attached. This keeps them straight so when you are ready to fish the rig works right. It may take quite awhile for a coiled leader to soften in the water enough to lay out straight. While it stays coiled it tangles each time it is dropped to the bottom.

The bottom hook will usually go fishless while whiting are the only candidate in the area but if ling move in, they will belt the lower hook.

Sometimes whiting or ling will hit a small diamond jig. Many whiting specialists use a 2 to 4 oz. diamond in place of a sinker. The jig not only takes the rig down to the bottom, but provides a little flash and may hook a fish or two. Add a strip of squid or belly strip to the hook.

I use long shanked Limerick hooks for the leaders because the longer shank is easier to grab hold of when unhooking a fish. Your hands get real cold and with a short shanked hook it can be time consuming to get the hook free, especially if the whiting gets the bait down deep.

For small boaters, drifting is the all round best fishing method. The fish are usually scattered over the area and even if concentrated in small pockets working a series of repeated short drifts is fast and easy. There's no boat traffic like on the summer bluefish grounds—you'll have the ocean nearly to yourself.

There were many times that anchoring was the only way to stay with the fish. At Tolten Lump and again on the northeast wreck on the Klondike I experienced times when the fish were only in very tightly packed schools. If you drift fished you quickly got off the school and caught nothing. Anchoring, especially retrieving the anchor line, is chilling in December. If I have two or three other fishermen on board we'll keep the engines running and bump them in and out of gear to maintain a steady position over the small spot to make sure we can catch good. If the initial catches are good then we'll anchor.

December whiting fishing has become kind of a tradition. After Thanksgiving turkey, it's time to take aim at these tasty bottom fish and weather permitting, we'll fish them until mid-December. By then, it's time to get the boat hauled and wait patiently for next season.

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CONQUERING THE WINTER KING

by Matt Ahern

Our resident sinker bouncer shares his sixty years of experience in chasing the "winter king."

Well—as every dedicated sinker bouncer knows—it's that time of year again!

And it's cold. But what the heck, it will soon be colder. In fact, too cold to do any serious codfishng. So, as a dyed-in-the-wool fisherman, now's the time to get out there and do your stuff.

You know, after 60 years of cod chasing in the New York Bight, I've come to the conclusion that December is the prime month for us fellows who live and dream codfishing. As for January, forget it—unless you're an iron man! February? So-so. March? some improvement, but the fish quickly return to their summer feeding grounds. Yes, sir—December is it!

Say what you will about summertime codfishing at Montauk (and it can be very good), those codfishermen I know well insist that there's no codfishing like winter codfishing. And I've got to agree with that, but don't hold this against me, for that's the way I was reared. In my glory days, I didn't know a thing about all that good summertime codfishing at Montauk; barely heard the community mentioned. Therefore, to fishermen like me summertime codfishing "just ain't natural." I guess you might say the dedicated winter codfisherman is not inconvenienced by inconvenience. Rugged fishing conditions and rugged weather mean nothing to us. All we've got on our minds are codfish—and more codfish. And if the elements turn sour and it suddenly turns brass monkey weather in two hours flat, so what. Nothing really matters to us "nuts," just so the fish cooperate.

If you are a beginning codfisherman, don't allow the above keep you from your first winter codfishing trip (there are many mild, beautiful winter days out there, and with the insulated clothing available today, there's no problem at all).

And for those beginning codfishermen, let me add this: cod are not all that difficult to catch—once the

fundamentals are mastered. If you faithfully follow the information below, I guarantee you will catch your share of the available cod. And as experience is gained, you'll find it becomes easier and easier. These are my methods—those methods of 60 years standing—and they catch cod **if** they are available. This is not a hedge, or a way to wiggle out, but only common sense. There are good codfishing days, and poor codfishing days. We all have them. I have mine, too—sometimes more than somewhat. And incidentally, don't blame your skipper should your results not be what you hoped for. Blame the fish that deserted the area the captain selected. That man in that wheelhouse knows his business, but he is a mortal man, nothing more, nothing less. He isn't a god (although in my early fishing days, I thought he was).

Well—that's neither here nor there. Let's get on with codfishing.

Because everything about codfishing is rugged, only suitable tackle should be used. While you won't have much fun, you can catch flounder on heavy codfishing tackle. But you won't catch cod on flounder tackle—except under certain conditions which have no place in this article.

Therefore, forget all thoughts of spinning tackle and bay rods and stuff. Equip yourself with a suitable rod, one which is stiff and strong, yet light enough not to become tiring. Length is important only in that it enables you to keep up with the competition. (A simple drop line in the hands of an expert will outfish a rod and reel any winter codfishing day you can mention. So don't go overboard on length.)

I know the accent on codfishing rods today is length, but how long is long? What may be ideal for me, may not be satisfactory for you. Therefore, when in doubt, a good rule of thumb to follow is this: select a rod which is not over six inches longer than you are tall. Don't go overboard on selection. Remember, many of us oldtimers used wooden sidewinder reels and converted hickory pool cues for rods—and we certainly caught our share of the fish!

As you should use the proper codfishing rod for tops in sport, so should you use the correct reel. This reel need not be expensive (good codfishing reels are reasonable), but it must be one that has been designed to take the stress and strain of deep water fishing, one that will handle fairly large sinkers with ease and one with the required oomph to winch a large cod to the surface—a cod that may easily go 30 or 40 pounds.

If you have no experienced fishing buddy to guide you in a rod and reel selection, don't fret. Hie yourself to the nearest tackle shop and select the best rod and reel you can afford—and make sure they carry a name you recognize. Beware of "Hong Kong Specials!" Forget "Famous Name Brands" entirely. Washington is a famous name, but if I saw it on fishing tackle (or a washing machine), I'd think a bit before I plunked down any coin of the realm. A word to the wise is sufficient.

If you are truly a babe-in-the-woods tell the man behind the counter exactly what it is you want. He'll know and guide you. Have no fear. You won't be taken advantage of. These knowledgeable fellows have been at the same old stand for years and years. They don't, and they won't, sully their reputation in order to make a few fast bucks from some trusting pilgrim.

When selecting a reel, get the conventional, revolving spool type, preferably with a star drag, and capable of holding at least 150 yards of 30 or 40 pound monofilament (good quality, please), with 40 pound selection the better of the two.

Now that we are squared away on that, the next item is your terminal tackle. Don't, I beg of you, treat this important part of your equipment with little more than casual interest as so many fishermen do. Take hooks. They are part of your terminal tackle; every fisherman knows that. But you better pay particular attention to that thin, curved bit of tempered steel. Don't ever lose sight of the fact that the rest of that expensive gear is but an aid to set that ten cent hook in some unwary fish's mouth. All the rest is secondary. You may be sure master fishermen never forget this. Again—a word to the wise is sufficient.

You'll find experienced codfishermen use various hook types to deck Old Whiskers. These range from regular shank Sproats, to the long shank Carlisle used by fluke fishermen. No one hook is perfect—they all have drawbacks. But when everything is considered, I don't believe there is a finer codfishing hook than the Sproat. Their shape is the one we picture when fishhooks are mentioned. Incidentally, regular shank Claw and Beak type hooks are an excellent second choice.

Most cod hooks range from 5/0 to 8/0. I suppose most fishermen lean toward the larger size. I did at one time myself. But no more. I use a regular shank 5/0 Sproat. I do this for two reasons: One, it is a light hook for its size (but strong enough), therefore, it is more likely to be affected by the current, which in turn will hold that lighter hook and its bait out and away from the main line. Two: when using this smaller than average codfishing hook, the sinker bouncer isn't tempted to load up his hook with large gobs of bait. I have found from my many years of codfishing experience that the use of oversize baits is often the reason for the fisherman's failure to connect with as many cod as he'd like.

Fellers, I've got to bring this to a halt right now. I've run out of space, and so forth. So, in the next issue we'll discuss baits, rigs, and the areas I've fished over the years, with the usual "hint" or two.

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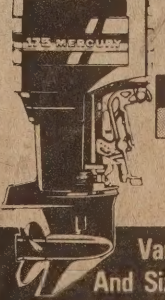

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DEVELOPING YOUR CAST NET SKILLS

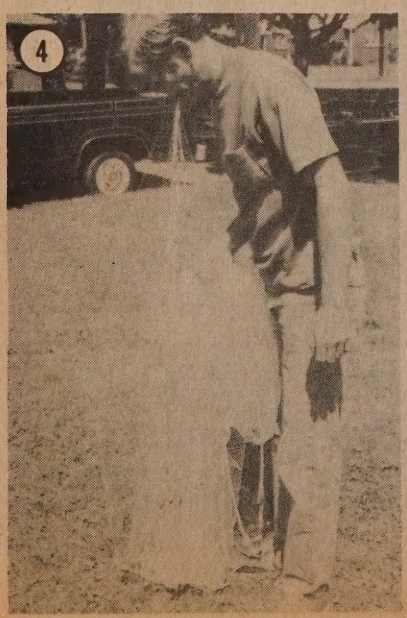
by Bill Berghof

This highly efficient method of gathering fresh bait is rapidly growing in popularity.

You may be wondering what you can use a cast net for in New Jersey waters, since most cast netters are located in the southern part of the Coastal and Gulf states.

For those who may not know it, there are plenty of mullet (corn cobs) that migrate along our coast in the fall months of September and October. They can be good table fare and are certainly good bait for inshore and offshore rigs.

If you carry a cast net aboard your boat, you may have the opportunity to cast for live shiners or small bunkers



which are driven by the surface by feeding blues of weakfish. When these baits are live lined you can be assured of a full fish box every time.

Some other tips I would like to pass along: if you can see the fish they can also see you. The clothing you wear can make or break your day. Don't wear bright colors. Earth tones are best—browns, greens, blues. Try to wear pull-over shirts without buttons. The net always seems to tangle in them just when you are about to cast over a waiting school of mullet. Another important piece of equipment is an inexpensive pair of sneakers. Since you are going to be busy enough handling your net and watching a school of fish at the same time, you won't be able to watch what you are stepping on. Oyster shells can cut your feet just as bad as broken glass.

Another habit to form when cast netting is to learn to read the water. If there are any freshwater fishermen reading this article I think they already know what I mean. What is meant by reading the water is, the wake left by a fish or school of fish moving through the water, or any disturbance on the surface is a dead giveaway there are fish around. Look for quiet pools of water and shallows that look like a mirror. Scan the top of the surface for any possible movement or any break of the surface. Minnows that are being chased is a sign of bait being present or fish feeding. A good pair of Polaroid glasses will let you see fish or bait way down deep.

Once you find a school of fish your next step is to sneak up close enough to throw your net without spooking them, and then to hit the target with your net. Sometimes your target is moving. What I do to improve my accuracy with my net is to put a 10 inch paper plate on my lawn and practice throwing the net over it. The object of this is to get the thimble of the net to land on the paper plate. I know it sounds impossible but believe me it can be done.

There are three enemies of a cast net: sun, rocks and large bluefish. After your day is over, take the garden hose and rinse the net off. Hang it up to dry the thimble in a shady area.

Rocks can be a real problem. Once the net is caught and tangled on a rock do not try to pull it off with the haul line. You are better off wading out and taking the next off the rocks.

One of the most unusual things that happened to me with a cast net was when I went night bluefishing on a party boat. I took my cast net to catch live bait before the party boat left the dock. I use live bait whenever I can. Well that night the blues were working a school of squid, which were

(Continued on next page.)

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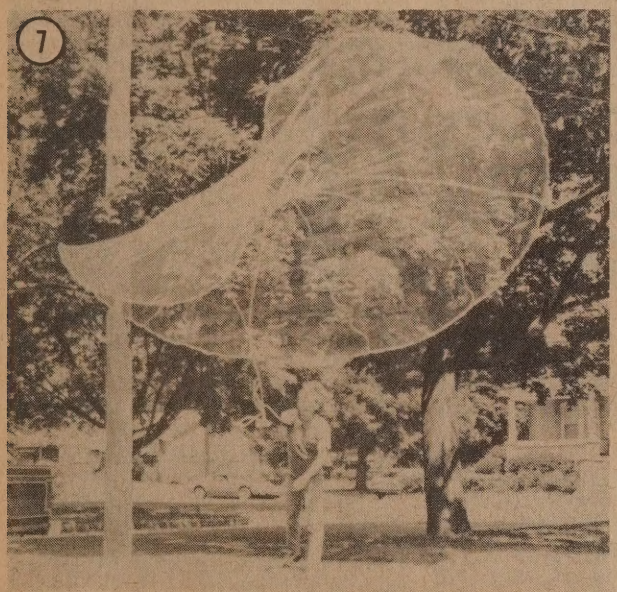

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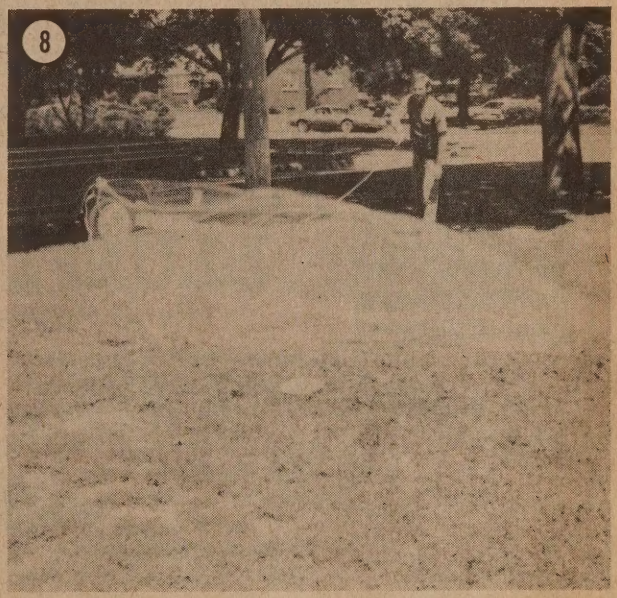

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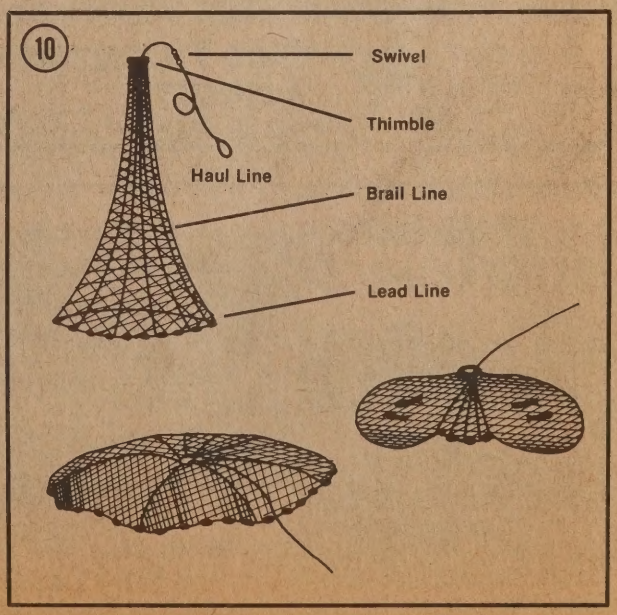

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The Offshore Walkaround 28 boasts the same classic lines, the same rugged dependability, and the proven design of the other Pro-Line deep -V's.

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driven to the surface. The party boat captain said to me, "If you can catch some of those squid with your net I will give you a free trip out." In a matter of an hour I caught enough squid to fill a 30 gallon drum. That night I took blues home caught on my rod and reel plus got my free ride the following night. Enough about catching fish; now how about throwing those nets. Okay, here it goes.

The principle of the cast net is simply this: the weights around the outside of the net, quickly sink the 5 foot diameter net over the fish and the brail lines attached to the 15 foot hand line causes the net to pouch or bag around the trapped fish.

In order to throw a cast net you must know the parts that make up the net. They are: the haul line—this is the line that is looped around the right wrist. This line is used to drag the net back after it is thrown or cast.

The Swivel—this attaches the haul line to the 22 brail lines and allows the net to spin when it is cast. It also keeps the brail lines from tangling.

The Lead Line—the lead line sinks the net to the bottom and traps baitfish within the net itself.

The Thimble—the thimble is located at the center of the net and allows the brail lines to pass through it when the net is retrieved.

Throwing a cast net of moderate size is really quite easy once you get the hang of it.

Photo One: First step is to grab the net and hold it in front of you, as shown in this photo.

Photo Two: Next, grab the net about one-third of the way down so it drapes across right hand.

Photo Three: Place the lead line over your right thumb as shown.

Photo Four: Grasp a portion of the weight part of net in your mouth while still holding the lead line on right thumb and main portion of net across right hand.

Photo Five: Hold lead line in left hand as you prepare to cast the net.

Photo Six: You are now ready to make a "cast" and will swivel your body slightly to give you power for casting the net.

Photo Seven: Net is cast and as it reaches out it will begin to open in wide circle. If you are doing it right, the net will fall to ground in full circle, so anything that is under it will be trapped as weights pull it to bottom.

Photo Eight: This is the way the net should appear after you make the cast. If it doesn't, you simply repeat the process until you get it right.

Photo Nine: To start next cast, simply lift net by lead line and lift it so the net lays straight from lead line as shown in photo. A few practice sessions on the front lawn should be enough to get you started and a couple trips to the seashore will put the finishing touches on your new found pastime.

Photo Ten: Line drawing shows part of net and how it works to trap baitfish.

DECEMBER NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

STRIPED BASS STOCKED IN THE UPPER NAVESINK RIVER, N.J. IN 1984 SURVIVED THEIR FIRST YEAR AND DOUBLED THEIR SIZE. THIS YEAR 27,400 ADDITIONAL STRIPERS WERE STOCKED IN THE NAVESINK BY THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH, GAME & WILDLIFE.

600 N.Y. STATE FISHERMEN CAUGHT 30,000 FRESHWATER BASS IN A 4 YR. STUDY FOR THE D.E.C.. CATCH RATES AVERAGED 1.7 BASS PER HOUR AND IT WAS FOUND THAT N.Y. LARGEMOUTHS REACH 12 INCHES BY AGE 4 AND SMALLMOUTHES BY AGE 5. MOST ALL HOOKED AND RELEASED BASS RECOVERED FULLY.

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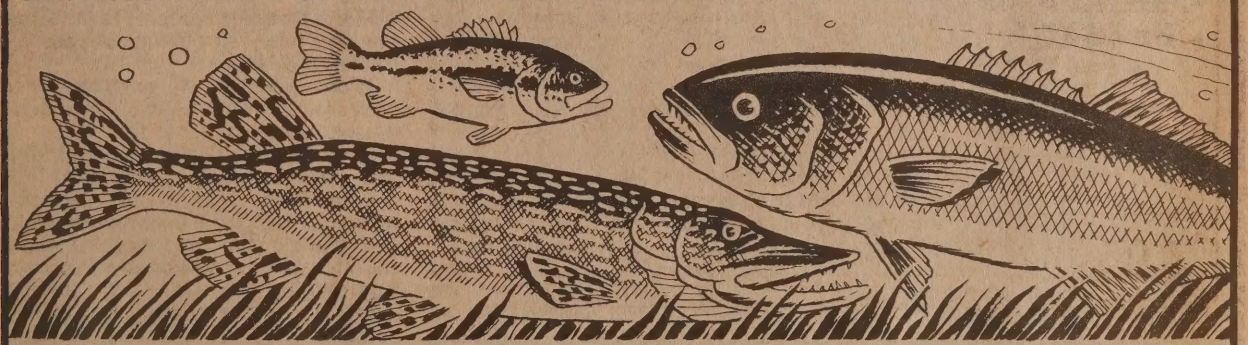
6½ LB. BROWN TROUT....CANDLEWOOD L.
21 LB. NORTHERN PIKE...BANTAM LAKE

OUTSTANDING SALTWATER SPECIES REPORTED WERE BIG BASS AND BLUES.

38 LB. STRIPED BASS...THAMES RIVER
22 & 18 LB. BLUEFISH...THAMES RIVER
A 28 LB. (41-INCH) BLUEFISH AND A 19 LB. BLUE TAKEN IN THE WESTBROOK AREA.



120,000 "BONUS" RAINBOWS AND BROOK TROUT WERE RECENTLY STOCKED IN ADDITION TO THE 50,000 TROUT LIBERATED THIS FALL IN NEW JERSEY PRIMARY TROUT WATERS. NORTH JERSEY WATERS RECEIVED OVER 39,000 TROUT.

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LIGHT AND SLOW FOR WINTER STEELHEAD

by Jim White & John Jollie

Winter steelheading requires a special touch if you want to be in the winner's circle.

By the middle of November, the coho salmon and the chinook or king salmon have about completed their spawning runs in the Salmon River of New York State. This is the time that serious steelhead fishing begins. The steelhead have entered the river after the last of the salmon, some to feed on the salmon roe, some to hold over until spring to fulfill their spawning duties.

There are not many rules to break in this cold water fishery. The steelhead are actively feeding at this time of year. The two most important rules for the novice to remember are to fish light and slow. **Light** and **slow!**

By fishing light we mean your leaders must be light. A leader of four pound test is about right. Now, we know a lot of fishermen will be turned off by what seems impossible, seeing as how steelhead reach 20 pounds or so in the Salmon River. But when you team the light line with the right rod and reel, the four pound leader is plenty strong enough.

Last year, while salmon fishing at the Black Hole on the Salmon River, we noticed what appeared to be small salmon coming up behind our baits and investigating our offerings, but just as quickly drop back into the pool without so much as a pick-up. We were able to see this taking place with the help of the polarized sunglasses. When salmon fishing we generally use 12 lb. test line and the salmon do not seem to mind, but the steelhead immediately sense that something is not right and move away quickly.

Jim went back to the Scout and returned with a spool of four pound leader material. He tied on a four foot leader with a fluorescent orange Hot Shot and almost like magic he was into a 7 lb. steelie. Well, my mother raised no fools and I did exactly what Jim had done and was immediately into a 10 lb. fresh run steelie. These fresh run fish were eager to cooperate for almost an hour and a half and when it was over we had hooked seven fish and landed four. They ranged in size from 5 to 16 lbs. Jim caught that 16 lber. on one of our own homemade willow leaf spinners. All of the fish were released.

The importance of light leaders cannot be stressed enough. It is probably the biggest mistake that newcomers to steelhead fishing make. We will admit that you probably lose more fish than you land while using the light leaders, but we guarantee that you will have more hook-ups than if you did not.

Nothing can be more discouraging to a novice after driving 400 miles, taking seven hours to do it, standing in a frigid river with the air temperature around freezing and everyone around him catching fish and him not being able to get a strike. Often the only mistake he is making is the leader size.

The river in the winter is often more stable in its water conditions. It is a fact that it is gin clear and often much lower than at other times of the year. Even at high water it is still lower than at other times of the year. It is for this reason the steelies can see heavier lines. Four pound test does not have to be the rule but six and sometimes eight will get the job done. This is something that you will have to experiment with according to the river conditions when you are there. By all means use the heaviest leader that you can get away with. Start with the eight and work your way down to four. Another mistake that we found is the use of fluorescent lines: do not use them. The steelhead can see them as well as you can. You will probably have your best results using what we use. Maxima Chameleon and Maxima green are high quality, extra limp lines that give excellent service while being as strong as any line on the market today. Ande Tournament Green is also an excellent line that we use a great deal.

When rigging your leader to your main line we recommend using a two barrel swivel dropper rig. The rig consists of two size 10 or 14 black barrel swivels, one free sliding on the main line and the other adjoining the main line and the leader. Off of the sliding swivel attach a length of line about 10 to 12 inches long. On this line you will attach the appropriate amount of split shot to hold on the bottom whatever bait or lure that you are planning to use. The idea being if your bait snags on the bottom, a rock, a tree limb, the lighter leader will break and you will lose only your hook and bait and not your terminal gear. If the split shot should snag on a rock or limb, the split shot will slide off of the dropper line and you will lose only your split shot. You will lose a lot of terminal gear while steelhead fishing, but this rig gives you a chance to retrieve at least some of it.

The rods that we use for steelie fishing are varied but the one that we use most often for winter steelhead are made by the Kunnan Tackle Company. They are medium action 9 foot boron spinning rods that weigh about 4½ ounces. The extra length gives the added spring needed to use light line effectively without snapping it on a hook set. Many of the major tackle manufacturers have now added steelhead rods to their line of fishing rods. So, the variety of rods for us is becoming a matter of your choice rather than being forced to take what they have then not being satisfied.

The second rule that we try to impress upon novice steelhead fishermen is to fish slow. The most important reason being that if you do not, you tend to lose your patience and concentration, something you cannot afford to do when you are trying to bring a steelhead to hook. Fish are cold-blooded creatures, which means they assume the temperature of the water surrounding them. The colder the water the less active they are going to be and the less they are going to feed. As the water cools in the winter the steelhead become lethargic and seek out the slower moving water because they expend less energy and require less oxygen in their bloodstream. There are days in the winter when the sun shines bright and the water may warm a couple of degrees and this could increase the steelhead's activity level, so be prepared for this possibility.

When we first tried our hand at winter steelhead we made all the same mistakes. We would move into a pool, make a few casts, retrieve our offering too fast, change baits after every four or five casts, then if nothing happened we would move downstream convinced that there were no fish in the pool. Well, needless to say we went without fish for many a trip. If we had not seen other fishermen with fish we probably would have given up.

One day in December, while feeling

rather inadequate after having caught no fish in the first two days of the trip, we watched a fisherman standing in a small riff at the Trestle Pool. He had one steelie of about 12 lbs. tethered to his wader belt. It was the only fish we had seen in two days. He seemed to know what he was doing so we figured we had better watch and hope to learn something.

The fisherman never, in about an hour, moved his feet. He would simply turn, cast a single salmon egg upstream and bounce it along the river bottom until his line tightened downstream. He would then repeat the whole procedure. He never lost eye contact with his line, always watching for something different in a drift. When he detected the line slowing or stopping his rod tip shot upwards to set the hook. He took two more steelies right before our eyes. It was from this day on that we started to fish slow, but just as importantly to cover the whole pool many times. Often steelhead will not strike at the first sight of a bait, but will have to be coaxed into striking either out of hunger or out of anger.

Steelhead, like striped bass often show a preference for a particular bait, action, color, or a combination of any of these factors. The only way you will hit upon the right combination is through slow methodical elimination. It seems like a lot of work and bother, but it is the price that has to be paid for a successful outing.

The driftboat fishermen on the river are a good example of this. They will hold in a pool and put out Luhr Jensen "Hot Shots." Now, the guide in the drift boat has probably five dozen Hot Shots in every color and combination of colors and sizes. He methodically goes through the colors until he finds the right combination. He puts out the Hot Shots on medium action casting rods teamed with conventional reels and 12 lb. test line, letting them drop back into the current and place the rod in the rod holder. He will allow it to swim for five to ten minutes and then let them drop back a little further into the pool. After he has covered the entire pool with that color he will switch colors and start the process over again. He will continue to do this until he either connects or runs out of colors, whereupon he will drift downstream to the next pool and repeat the process in that pool. Sometime, in one of the pools he will connect with a steelie. When he does connect with that first one the next one will be close behind. It seems that when one fish is hooked it turns on the other fish in the pool and they hit almost anything that moves.

It is a good idea when fishing from shore to watch for these guided drift boats and if at all possible fish the same pool as they are. Do this of course with a bit of courtesy, do not cast over his lines, or otherwise make a nuisance of yourself but observe and wait for the action to start. Once they have fish for their charters they are more than happy to give you advice and even give you the pool.

Thousands of fishermen from all over the eastern United States are coming to upstate New York to partake in this fantastic fishery that the State of New York has created in Lake Ontario and all of its tributaries. But along with the fishermen come the problems. Some of the fishermen have no respect for the great fishery that the state has created. One of the major problems is that of lifting steelhead; by lifting we mean snagging. Fishermen who do not know to fish for steelhead and do not take the time to learn even a little about how to catch them are becoming frustrated when they see steelies in the water and cannot bring them to hook. What they resort to is against the law and if caught they will be arrested and taken off the river. Part of the problem has to do with the snagging of Pacific salmon which is legal from August 15 through October 15 in section B of the river. Section B extends from County Rt. 48 bridge upstream to the County Rt. 52 bridge at Altmar. This casts a stigma over the entire fishery. The greater the number of fishermen that are resorting to this tactic, the fewer the number of steelhead will be in the river for law abiding fishermen. There are too many fishermen from out of state and the fishing laws for the state of New York are numerous and confusing. It is our opinion that the state of New York must do something to address the snagging problem if the Salmon River is to continue to be a valuable resource to the people of upstate New York.

So, if you do intend to try your hand at this winter fishery and we encourage you to do this. We also encourage you to learn as much as you can and pay close attention to the regulations as written by the people of the state of New York. A little knowledge will go a long way to ensure you a productive and enjoyable trip.

When the water level is down the steelhead gather in the many pools that are left. Also visible are the numerous snags that are waiting to steal your tackle.

RIGGING A BEACH BUGGY AIR PUMP

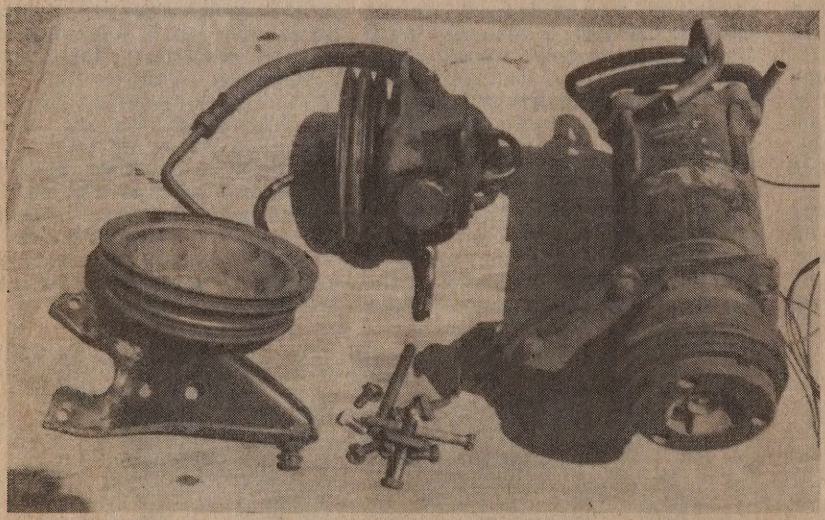
by Noah Michaels

I had heard about using an auto air conditioning compressor to pump up one's beach tires, but didn't want to spend either time or money to do it. But after a trip to Cape Cod in a friend's buggy equipped with just such a system, I came back convinced it was the greatest thing since sliced bread. So after years of procrastination and listening to my old air tank bounce around the back of the buggy, I finally did something about it.

First, I started out to assemble all the needed parts. The whole system when finished would cost me $240 and two weeks of hard work; yet after two seasons of use I could kick myself for not installing it sooner. If you wish to put in a compressor air system too, this article should cut down on your time and trouble.

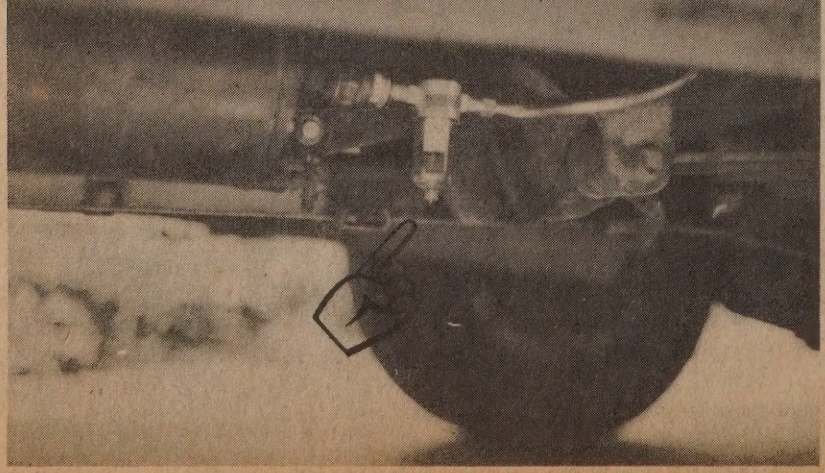
The first thing is to locate an air conditioner compressor pump that comes from the same make and model as your vehicle. Don't try substituting something else; you'll only give yourself headaches. Make sure you also get the mounting brackets and nuts and bolts that are used to hold it in place. While you're getting the compressor you'll need the power steering pump and fan belt pully also. These will replace your single pully power steering pump and old double fan pully.

Next go shopping for all the other parts. The air tank I found in a junk yard off of Rail Road Avenue in Lindenhurst. All the rest of the hardware was bought new. Any good commercial pump and compressor



Right to left: air conditioning compressor, two belt power steering unit and three belt fan pully.

Top left to right: air tank, filter, m elbow, pressure fittings, pressur



Tank mounted to frame. This tank had petcock but mini filter catches any moisture or oil before it gets to tires.

Quick connect coupling. Plasti

store should have what you'll need. You'll also need 15 feet of 3/8 copper tubing, an air hose, air pressure regulator, check valve and an air gauge.

Pick a nice day to start work; it will be a long day. Begin by replacing your old pulleys with the new ones. Then attach the air compressor pump; on GMC vehicles this is on the driver's side. This is the hardest and longest part of the whole job. Take your time. It's important that all the pulleys line up correctly.

Before mounting the compressor you will have to cut off the old compression hoses. Just make sure you leave enough metal tubing to work with. After it's installed, attach to the intake tube; on GM models the larger tube off the exterior air filter. All connections will be done using pressure fittings. Use Teflon tape over the threads to ensure a good seal.

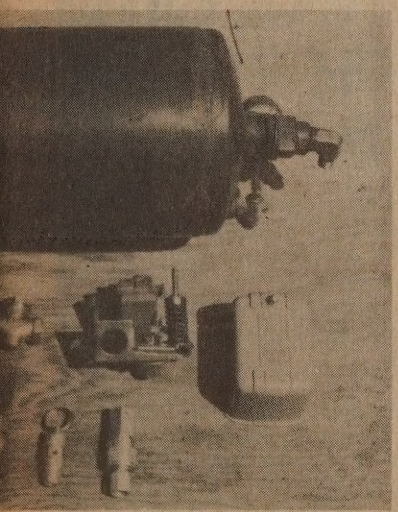
You'll next need to modify a short piece of angle iron to mount the Square D air pressure switch to the side of the compressor. Attach 6 inches of copper tubing to the bottom of the switch with a T-fitting. Then from the exhaust port to the T-fitting attach a copper tube and at one end attach a check valve. This valve will keep air from escaping back through the compressor. You can also mount the electric toggle switch on the dash in a convenient position and run wires to the pressure switch.

Next find a place under your truck to attach the air tank. I bolted mine to the frame using one existing hole and drilling another. Once that is done, connect a piece of tubing between the T-fitting to the tank. At the T-fitting end, the copper tubing should be bent into a number of coils. This is done so that the vibration of the truck's engine will not snap the copper tubing where it connects to the frame. Due to the number of bends needed to install the copper tubing throughout the job, it's a good idea to pick up a tube bender.

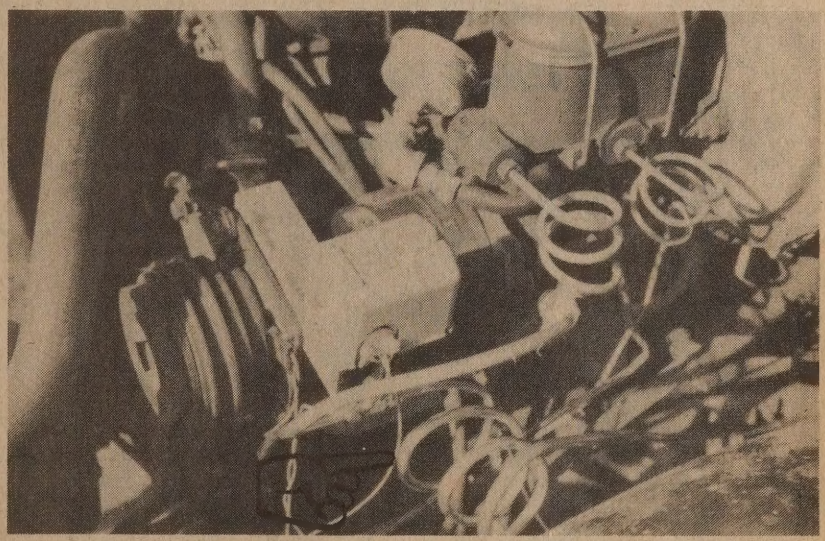
Somewhere inside the truck, preferably towards the rear, mount the air pressure regulator. The one used in the job was a Speedaire model 1z838b. While mounting the regulator, attach the emergency pressure plug (the plug used will open at 200 pounds), plus attach the air gauge. Once that is done two copper tubes must be run through the floor. First measure from the air tank to the regulator and cut enough to do the job. Make sure you take into account any bends needed. Connect the air line mini-filter, a Speedaire model 2z766a, to the back of the air tank. Then connect the tubing to the mini-filter and the intake port on the regulator.

Take the air hose coupling and attach it to a piece of angle iron and bolt it to the back bumper. The second piece of tubing should be measured and connected to the regulator's last exhaust port and to the air hose coupling at the other end. All that is needed now is an air hose, which can be picked up at the compressor store.

I believe you'll be well pleased with your new air system and find yourself running the beaches more often because airing-up hassles will be a thing of the past.

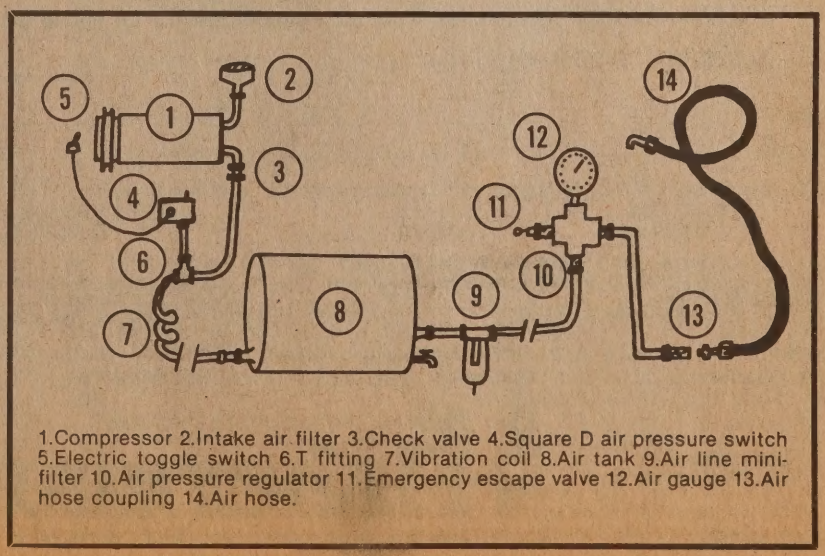


ter, T-fitting, pressure switch, pipe and quick connect coupling.



Attached compressor. Note coil of copper tubing at lower center.

cannister helps keep it clean.



1.Compressor 2.Intake air filter 3.Check valve 4.Square D air pressure switch 5.Electric toggle switch 6.T fitting 7.Vibration coil 8.Air tank 9.Air line mini-filter 10.Air pressure regulator 11.Emergency escape valve 12.Air gauge 13.Air hose coupling 14.Air hose.

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AMBROSE TOWER LING AND WHITING

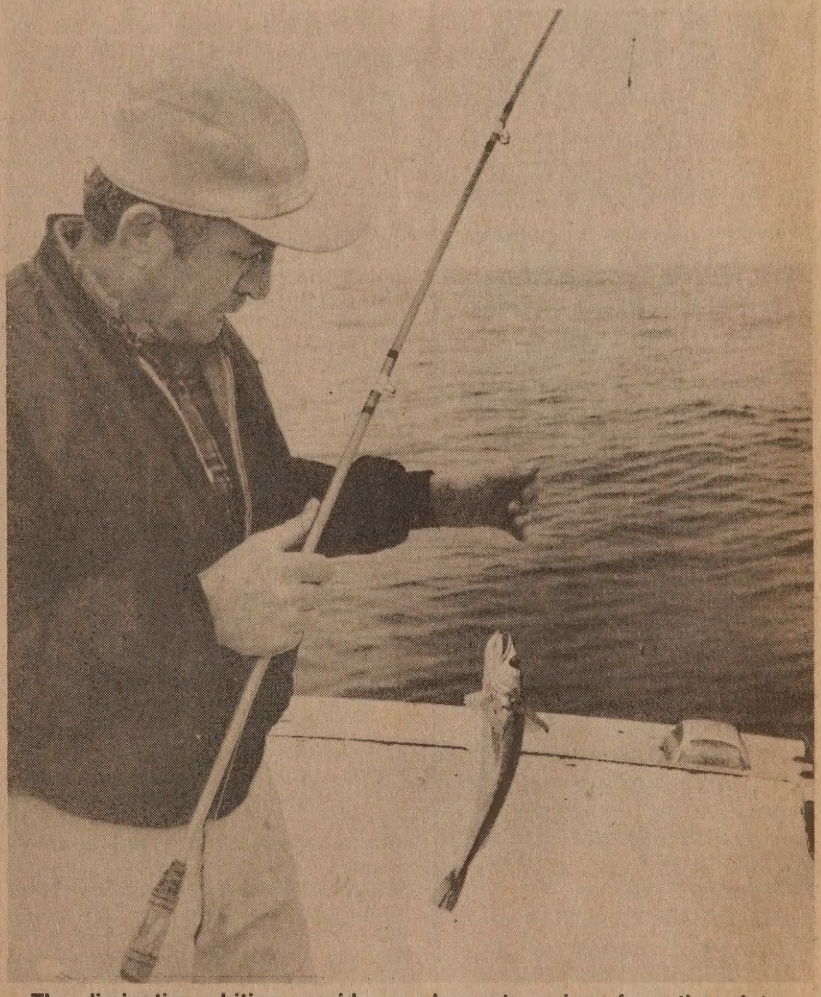
by Tony Somma

This New York Bight landmark plays host to scores of sinker bouncers when ling and whiting arrive.

Far too many of us succumb to the elements and hang up our rods and reels too soon. Just about the time we put our fishing gear away, ling and whiting arrive. Admittedly, it may be cold and the water a bit rough, but these conditions don't always prevail. If we pick our days and dress properly we can enjoy many fine fishing trips right through January. One of the tricks I use to make sure I don't venture out on a day not to my liking is to plan an alternate activity, such as painting the bathroom. This way if I don't go fishing, I'm not disappointed. For some reason I haven't missed too many fishing trips, and the bathroom is beginning to show signs of wear and tear.

Before venturing out you should know a little about the species you plan to put on the dinner table. Both ling and whiting are related to the cod family and can be readily differentiated from their relatives by their smaller size. Most of the fish you tie into will go 10 to 16 inches and weigh between 1 and 4 lbs. Ling are generally larger than whiting. Important to note if you're hoping to win a pool. Ling are bottom dwellers and feeders who may sometimes pursue food to the surface. Whiting are fast swimmers who feed close to the bottom and will chase food to the surface. Ling and whiting have roomy mouths which can accommodate hook sizes from 1/0 to 4/0. Various types are commonly used. Among them Aberdeen, Carlisle, O'Shaughnessy, Sproat, Virginia and Mustad. I prefer either 2/0 or 3/0 Sproat hooks. For both species you'll fish the ocean floor. Ling and whiting can be caught by regular bottom fishing or by jigging. Although your target is small, you'll be fishing in places where fairly heavy sinkers are required to keep your rig on the bottom. Cod may also be present, thus your rod should have enough backbone to meet this possibility. Conditions which favor the use of conventional tackle instead of spinning.

When ling and whiting are the target there isn't a better way to go than by party boat. Even when the fish are only a couple of miles off the beach or right under your favorite pier, party boats are still the way to go. Fishing on a large, heated sea worthy craft has it over fishing on a small boat or off a pier during late fall and winter months. Most of today's party boats offer heated cabins and warm food. A hard combination to beat.



The diminutive whiting provides a pleasant reprieve from the winter doldrums.

Boats from all three ports generally fish in the vicinity of Ambrose Tower in anywhere from 60 to 90 feet of water. An area not suited to light tackle since sinkers anywhere from 6 to 16 ounces are necessary. Your rod must have enough backbone to handle these weights. The possibility of boating a cod must also be considered. Again, I must stress that you would be wise to use conventional tackle instead of spinning especially if cod have been boated. I use a medium action 7 foot boat rod with a Penn 60 reel filled with 20 lb. test mono line. A heavier rod would be okay for cod, but will cost you some action with the whiting and ling. A good quality 20 lb.

(Continued on next page.)

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BY PETE BARRETT

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test line is perfect for handling two or three fish and up to a 16 oz. sinker. Some anglers like to be prepared for heavier fish such as cod and will use a reel filled with 30 or 40 pound test line. The stronger lines have larger diameters than 20 lb. test and will require heavier sinkers to keep your bait on the bottom. The heavier line is overkill for 1½ to 4 lb. fish. If you use a good quality 20 lb. test line and set your drag properly you will be able to handle anything that you'll tie into in the open waters around Ambrose Tower.

One of the better parts of a late fall or early winter ling and whiting trip is the anticipation. It's just what the doctor ordered to combat the effects of cabin fever. I put a fine edge on my expectations by tying my own rigs. The first few I made were abominations as far as looks went, but the fish didn't seem to mind. With a bit of practice and some planning you can produce a professional looking ling and whiting rig for pennies. Making a combination ling and whiting rig is simplicity itself. Ling and whiting have fairly roomy mouths, so hook sizes aren't too critical. I use anything from a 2/0 to a 4/0 Sproat; the 4/0 if cod are around. To make your own rigs, you'll need a good quality barrel swivel, a four foot length of 30 lb. leader material, two 2/0 hooks and one 3/0 hook. To tie your rig you'll need to use three basic knots: dropper loops to attach the hooks, an improved clinch knot to attach the barrel swivel and an end loop for the sinker. For the leader I use clear 30 lb. test mono and have not had any problems with it yet. To tie your rig proceed as follows: starting from the top down attach the barrel swivel to one end of the leader with an improved clinch knot; 12 inches down from the swivel tie a large two inch dropper loop. The loop must be large enough for you to push it through the eye of a 2/0 hook and pass it over the shank. Snug up the hook to the end of the loop by pulling on the hook and loop. Tie two more dropper loops 12 and 24 inches further down the leader. Attach the remaining 2/0 hook to the second dropper loop and the 3/0 to the third. If cod have been caught consider using a 4/0 instead of the 3/0. Four or five inches below the last hook tie an end loop with an overhand knot for the sinker and remove any remaining line. Your basic rig is now completed. The top two hooks will catch most of your whiting while the bottom hook will catch mostly ling and hopefully an occasional cod. If you want to add an additional hook to the rig, you can do so by adding a hook on a short leader at the swivel or by changing the distances between hooks to 8 inches to make a 4 hook rig. You could also start with a 5 foot leader which will allow enough line to tie another dropper loop for the fourth hook. Make a few extra rigs to be prepared for the rare but occasional break-off.

Once your terminal tackle is ready make sure your rod and reel are in good working order and the reel is filled to capacity with fresh good quality line. You'll be fishing in deep waters and could tie into something larger than ling or whiting. A full reel of fresh line will ensure you have a good chance of landing the larger fish. The full reel is also a labor saving device since a full spool will require less turns to boat your catch. Remember check your tackle in the comfort of your home. Your time on the water should be spent fishing not making repairs that could have been made at home.

Once everything is in order you can try to get some sleep. If you're anything like me, you'll be tossing and turning all night checking the alarm clock to make sure you don't oversleep. Upon waking don't forget to dress in extra warm clothes. As the old saying goes "you can always take it off, but if you don't have it along you can't put it on." If you decide to board one of the Staten Island party boats, selecting a rail position won't be a problem. There's usually plenty of room to move about. Regardless of how the captain decides to fish, drifting or at anchor, you'll be able to select a choice piece of railing to comfortably fish from.

On the trip to the fishing grounds, the mate will prepare the bait and put a supply in a plastic container for each angler. If you are so inclined the mate will usually be overjoyed with any help you care to give. Depending on sea conditions, it will take about 45 minutes to travel to Ambrose Light, plenty of time to get your tackle ready. If you're not sure what size sinker to use, ask the mate. He knows how the skipper plans to fish, can read sea conditions and will be happy to help.

When the captain gives the signal to fish, bait up and begin fishing. If you are using chunks or strips of herring, pass the hook only once through the bait at the widest part. If the bait is clam, pass the hook through the hardest meat available, wrap the clam slice two or three times around the hook shank, leave some flesh dangling from the hook and impale the clam one more time. Remember, it's not necessary to use big globs of bait. Try to keep your offering streamlined and lifelike.

After you catch your first whiting, you can improve on the bait you are using by cutting the fish into strips to use as bait. A strip of whiting will last quite awhile and is just what the doctor ordered to catch another whiting. If clam is being used and if cod are around, I would stick with the clam on the bottom hook.

I would like to pass along a few tips that help me put fish in the bucket. Fish for multiple hookups. After hooking a fish don't reel in, drop back, feel for a second hit, strike, drop back, feel for a third hit, set the hook and reel up. Most times you'll have more than one fish on improving your overall catch by boating multiple fish each time you reel in. When the

tide is running hard or the boat is drifting fast regular bottom fishing methods are not always productive since you won't always feel a hit. A method I use when fishing in fast running water is to slowly lift the sinker from the bottom and feel for a hit. If nothing happens, let out a little more line to touch bottom and slowly lift the sinker off bottom to feel for a hit. This lift and dropback will allow you to keep your bait on the bottom where the fish are. When you get too far from the boat, reel in and start over again. If fishing is slow and conditions permit, try to improve your catch by changing methods. Remember ling and whiting can be caught by jigging. Exchange the sinker for a 4 or 5 ounce single hook diamond jig like you use for bluefish and attach a strip of whatever bait you are using to the hook. I've had success using a jig by lowering it to the bottom and using long lifts to raise the jig from the ocean floor to impart action. Most of the hits seem to occur on the down stroke when the jig is returning to the bottom.

Before you know it, the day will come to an end. On the way back you can either clean your own fish or have the mate do them. I prefer to clean my own since I like my whiting scaled and the mate usually doesn't have time to scale everyone's fish. Cleaning ling and whiting is simplicity itself. After scaling the fish, place it stomach down on the cutting board with the tail away from you. Cut through the backbone just behind the head. Once through the backbone angle the knife toward the vent and remove the head and stomach from the rest of the fish. I usually fillet some of the ling I catch. To do so place the fish on the cutting board and hold its head. Just behind the head cut into the fish to the skeleton. Turn the blade toward the tail and run the knife along the bone to remove the fillet from the fish. Flip the fish over and repeat the process. All that's left to be done is to remove the skin from the fillets. Whether you clean your own fish or not, don't forget to tip the mate. They rely on tips for a major portion of their income. If you have more fish than you can use give the excess to the mate. On a few Staten Island party boats it's not uncommon to see the mate give fish to somebody who didn't do too well. If he doesn't give them away, he will sell them after the boat docks.

Neither ling or whiting rate as a sport fish, but they are fun to catch and delicious to eat. Ling are meaty and taste like cod when cooked as fillets. Their meat can be used in chowders. Ling can also be steamed and used for fish cakes or cut into chunks and used in salads or cocktails. Whole ling and whiting can be cooked by baking, broiling or frying. Whiting can also be smoked. You'll find that no matter how you prepare your catch the meat will have excellent flavor and will make a delicious meal.

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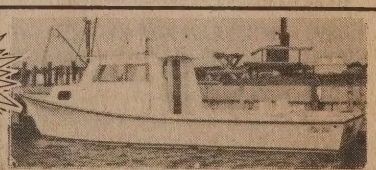

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HEAVY ARTILLERY FOR RAILBIRDS

by Brian Mulholland

Most saltwater fishermen start their tackle acquisitions with either a spinning reel or a small conventional. Whichever one you get first, you acquire the other soon thereafter, and it's a safe bet that the vast majority of fishermen's closets have both of these reels somewhere in the pile. The spinning mill gets used for chasing small bluefish and weaks and for dragging an ounce or two of lead for flounder and fluke. The bigger reels get used for heavier bottom fishing and for jigging up bluefish when you get out on the boat, or when you make a party boat trip.

It's also a pretty safe bet that most of these latter reels are in the 2/0 to 3/0 size bracket. Reels of this type, like the Sealine 50H or the Penn Long Beach or Jigmaster, are cheap, efficient and adequately durable for ordinary use even with very minimal maintenance. You wouldn't want to drag up a tuna on most of them, and in some circumstances even a big bluefish could be an embarrassment, but they're quite adequate for the use that most anglers make of them.

Bigger reels are specialty items; 6/0 and 9/0 reels are strictly of interest to offshore trollers who own their own boats. The exceptions are too few to mention. But even if you don't have a boat to equip, you can occasionally need something stronger than the G.I. issue conventional reel. In short, sometimes you need a 4/0 reel.

The 4/0 size bracket is the heavy artillery of inshore saltwater angling. It's small enough to be handled all day on a party boat, or off a small boat's transom, large enough to serve for dragging 40 pound wire and also large enough to subdue any fish you could plausibly handle standing up. The rising interest in long range party boating for big cod and pollock and the availability of party boat tuna fishing makes this size reel of more importance to non-boat owning fishermen than it used to be, so a discussion of the virtues and demerits of the various 4/0 reels on the market is now in order.

In the 4/0 reel business, the Penn Senator 113H has been "the" 4/0 reel in local use. The Senator is the least expensive reel of its size around, and still more than adequate for anything that you might want to do with it. The basic 4/0 reel is the Senator 113, but this has a gear ratio too low (2 to 1) for current tastes. The 113H is the one that lines the party boat rail any time you're chasing cod or big bluefish or tuna. Its gear ratio is 3.25 to 1. It's available variously with chromed or aluminum spools. The lighter spool is less prone to backlash when jigging or casting, and should be your first choice. The heavier spool affords a bit more line capacity and is also the spool of choice when dragging wire line.

Mechanically, the reel is relatively unsophisticated. Daiwa boasts a one piece frame which offers greater durability, but this may be a bit of over-engineering on the part of that manufacturer. (When was the last time you saw a Senator pulled out of shape by the fish?) Intensive users may want to look uphill to more expensive machines, but very few fish get taken on the more expensive reels that couldn't also be landed on the 113H. What you get when you buy the more expensive reels is a greater ease of use.

There is a deluxe version: the 113HLW. The HLW version is wider and gives you full line capacity with an aluminum spool, and superior castability.

Daiwa's Sealine reels have put the market squeeze on Penn, and they are undeniably very nice reels. They advertise not only a one piece frame but larger small parts, which should reduce the incidence of breakdowns. Since I don't own one, I can't provide any comments on how well they stack up under sustained use against the Senator or Special Senator reels. They run a few dollars more than the 113H. The 4/0 reels, the 400H and 450H have a gear ratio of 3.4 to 1. They apparently are not available with any spool but an aluminum one. In theory, this should induce some corrosion problem from electrolysis between steel wire line and aluminum spool. If you expect to spend a lot of time dragging wire, it's something of which you should make inquiry with anybody you know who has done this with a Sealine.

Newell Models 440, 447 and 454 are

4/0 in size, and the latter is in fact the largest reel, in terms of line capacity, currently on the market.

There are several points where these reels differ. The lowest gear ratios are those on the Penn reels; the fastest 4/0 Senator, the 113H, is geared at 3.25 to 1. The Sealine 400H has a 3.4 to 1 gear ratio. The various 400 series Newell reels are available with 4 and 5 to 1 gear ratios. I'm a little leery of a super fast gear on a big reel, not so much because of a concern for mechanical weakness, but for the sake of fish fighting leverage. If you tie into a fish big enough to justify a 4/0 reel in the first place, you'll find you have a sizeable load on the end of the rod. The higher the gear ratio, the more leverage that weight has against you, and a really good fish on the end of a fast gear ratio can be hard to pump. The problem disappears if you're using a short rod, such as the Sabre "Stroker," but it's still significant if you use a long blank with a stiff tip. I understand that veteran users of big Newell reels usually do prefer the faster gear ratios, but I'm damned if I know how they do it. Myself, I'm quite happy to leave the faster gears to smaller reels.

Daiwa and Newell reel spools are available only in aluminum. If you want chrome plated bronze for dragging wire, or for any other purpose, you'll have to use a Senator. Price is another concern: the big Newells are generally priced around $100, making them the most expensive of the true 4/0s.

The other point on which they differ is weight. A 113H weighs, according to the current catalog, an even 30 ounces. The Sealine 400H weighs 34.9 ounces and the Newell 454, largest and heaviest of that family, weighs 19.8 ounces. So you get 10 ounces less weight than with either of the two brands, and this makes quite a difference to wrist and arm fatigue at the end of a long day. It also matters if you plan to do much underhand casting; believe me, you'll feel it. This is the main reason that my 4/0 is a Newell 454. All reels are most reliable when regularly maintained, but the Newells are a little more insistent on it than most. Don't lose the parts diagram that comes with the reel and follow the lubrication instructions.

One advantage shared by the Daiwa and Penn reels is the availability of the Aftco "Star Set" drag. This lets you select an amount of drag tension which you can't accidently exceed if you have to back off on the drag to get the rod around an anchor cable or out of a tangle. This is useful, especially when wrestling with sizeable fish.

There is an interesting intrusion into the 4/0 field coming from Shimano. This firm is advertising a series of reels called "TLD": these are lever drag reels, apparently intended for general inshore use. The ads claim that you can cast with these reels, which is not true of other lever drag reels now on the market. Shimano has started advertising these reels in advance of their availability, a habit which annoys some dealers. If a 4/0 size reel can be made at a reasonable weight with the ability to cast, the whole reel business is in for a severe shake-up.

Reels in the 2/0 and 3/0 size range see plenty of work aboard open boats, but fall short when tuna, big cod and monster blues are the target.

FOCUSING ON THE JOB AT HAND

by Tim Coleman

Being on or near the water with fish pole in hand can be one of life's best experiences. It can also—for a variety of reasons—be full of life's dings and dents. For those of us who need glasses it may mean a battle to keep them on or keep them clean.

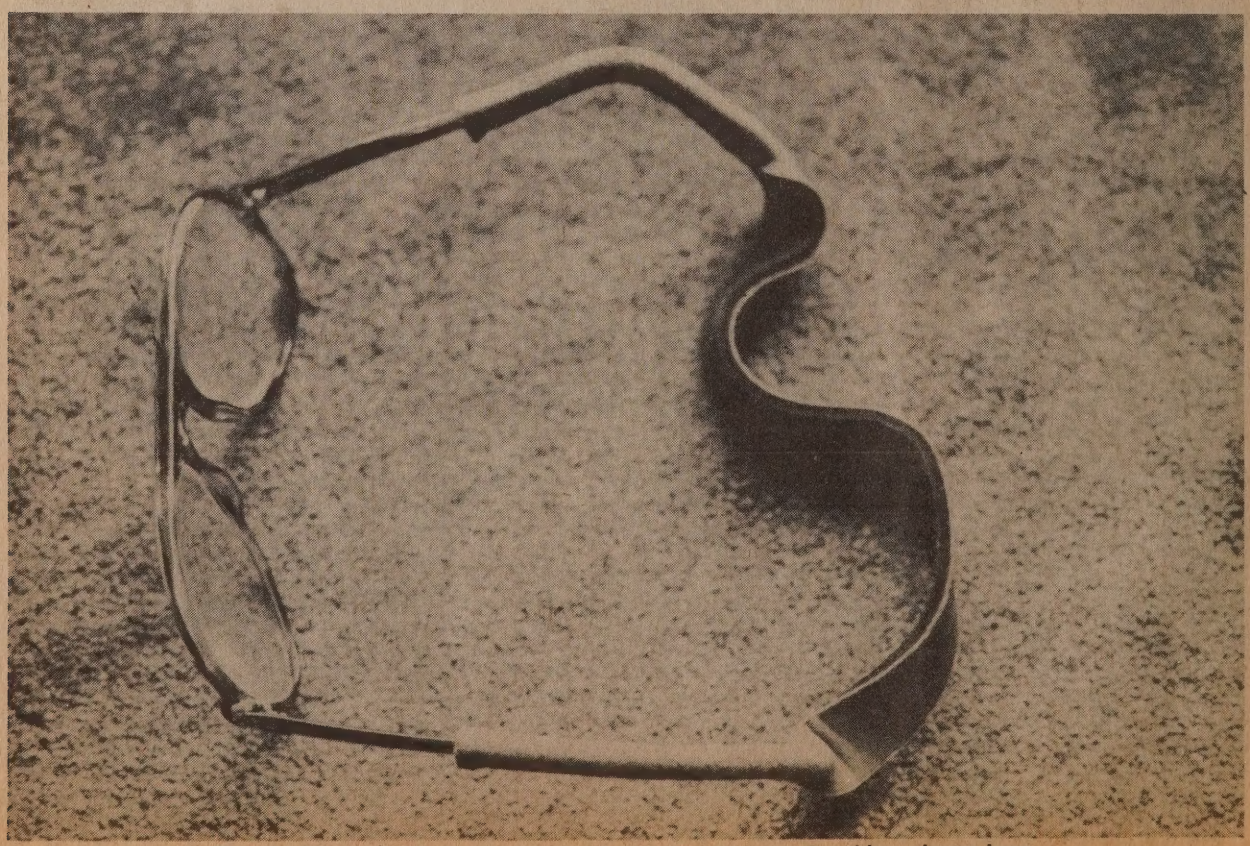
After returning from Vietnam in 1967, I had a nice green Army laundry bag among other mementoes and a new pair of GI glasses. For the first time in my life I was literally faced with the need to look at a sudsy northeaster through windows easily clogged with spray. From then until now, a few lessons, some in the hard knocks school, have gone with the tide.

First off was my knack to lose the darn things. I've donated glasses to the sea gods in such places as a cod trip off Nomans Island or a hunt for the funny ones with stripes on Parsons Beach in southern Maine. Each time they went there wasn't anything to hold them in place.

Hunting around, there was all sorts of stuff from pieces of mono to things available over the counter in drug stores. Each one never seemed to fit the bill until Croakies came along. That's the brand name for eyeglass holders that fit around your glasses where they go over your ears. By running the glasses further up into the Croakies you can have them fit very tight to the back of your head or considerably looser if you need to take the glasses off or just let them hang around your neck. Some readers who've tried these told me they sometimes use them while skiing. Croakies go for $5 to $6 in drugstores or optical centers. My last one lasted almost two years before it fell apart from exposure to sun and many wet nights on the beach.

Before Croakies some of my longer lasting glasses looked like the loser in the Spinks-Ali bout. On one visit to check-up, the optometrist took the glasses, held them between thumb and forefinger at arm's length, and asked, "fish bite you?" The bridge was held together by clear tape; both hinges were green from corrosion and wobbly at best; directly under the bridge was all sorts of dried whatever, some of which I'm sure was fish blood and on the left-hand side was still a small piece of 80 lb. pink Ande. They were not the glasses to wear, let's say for a job interview.

Even though glasses can be kept snug on your head you still need, especially if you're crazy enough to enjoy surf fishing, to keep them clear. In the summer it wasn't too much of a problem; my T-shirt was pressed into service unless it was wet or had too many crumbs from the bag of Doritos. My eye doctor will probably cringe at that statement as some lenses scratch unless wiped with very soft tissue or some type of lens paper. You can buy small packets of the latter at drug-stores, slip one in a dry spot on your person, then wipe glass as needed.



One readily available product to keep glasses snug are Croakies, shown here.

On a night with a roaring southwester you may go through a packet of lens tissue, not to mention a couple fine bass.

Before trying this facet of eyeglass wear, I'd have to choose my surf spots some nights with an eye to keeping my back to the wind so the glasses would keep clear a bit longer. On some misty nights all you got even then was ten minutes, maybe less.

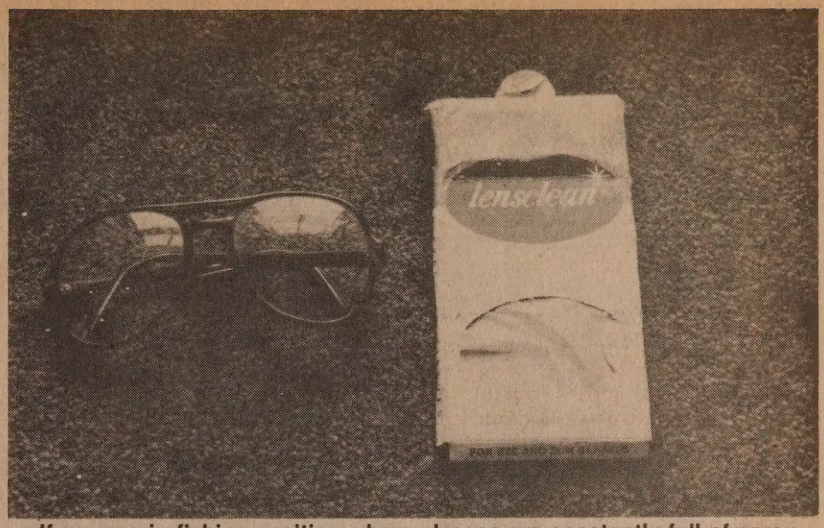
How about extended trips like vacation or maybe a two-day venture offshore? What happens if glasses break or slip overboard? Do you have a replacement? You might consider an extra pair in a soft pouch carried in a small plastic container when packing to travel a distance. It's one thing to have something happen an hour's drive away, but quite another when paddling around out in the Fishtail or down off Key West.

This last point may be what some consider the ultimate in eyeglass wear: soft contact lenses that can be kept in your eyes for extended periods of time. That tip was given by Terry Smith who works winters on a dragger out of Point Judith. Terry solved the eyeglass problem with a set of contacts that remain in place for a month at a time. That helps when you ship out on a two week trip when you are constantly on deck in some poor to horrible weather.

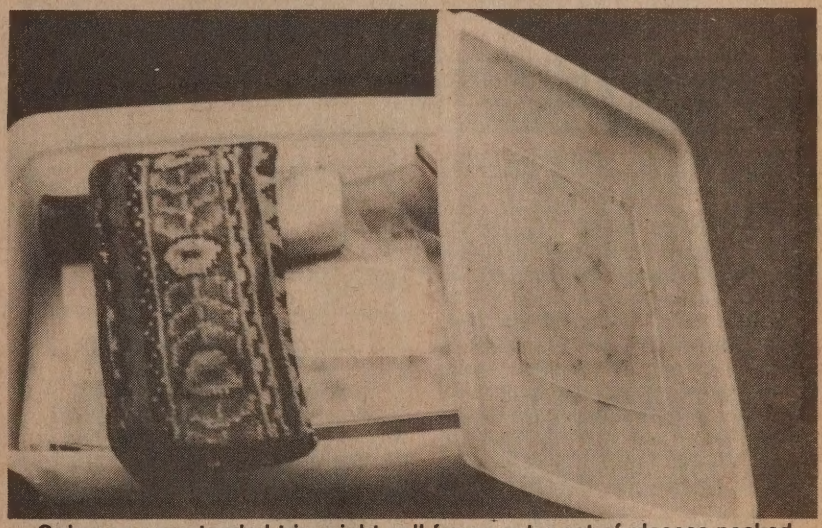
By getting soft contacts you eliminate the need to wipe glasses ever again. After listening to Terry it was back to the eye doctor to explain the needs of someone who falls off rocks into the surf. The doctor recommended a system that was Greek to me but sounded okay. Two weeks later, in came my new eyes and with a little fear and a lot of blinking they were installed. The very first night was down to Watch Hill Light in a northeaster to try them out. What a treat to look into the wind without the world blurred over.

The contacts provided a few problems such as putting them in and taking them out. The first time the optometrist talked me through it; afterwards it was just practice. The thought of putting something in your eye may not sound so great, but you get used to it. A booklet explained all you wanted to know about these soft marvels, but were too dumb to ask. They came with a three part washing solution and plastic holder for nights they came out. Just make sure you get the right eye in literally the right holder or you could have problems. After two months with contacts, I recommend them to anyone who has been flummoxed by glasses while trying to extract a couple fish. Cost for the job excluding appointments was $250.

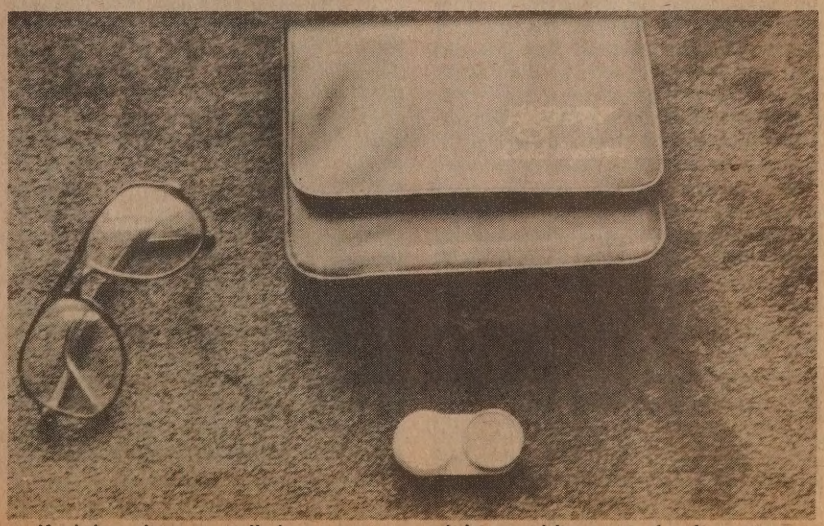
A fellow once told me you can't learn about fishing unless you open your eyes. People who need glasses can't do that until they've got the world in clear view. Such may take a bit of trying but once finished you go about the important job of looking for a fish.



If you are in fishing position where glasses are constantly full of spray you might consider a packet of lens tissue like this. You can slip them in a dry spot that's handy for constant cleaning.



Going on an extended trip might call for an extra set of glasses packed into a small plastic container in case something happens to your main pair.



If wiping glasses really bugs you, you might consider a set of soft contact lenses. You can buy a pair that can remain in your eyes for long periods of time.

East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

As we go to press, our prolonged mild spell appears to be over, possibly heralding the start of the winter fishing season. Reports from the weekend, however, still speak of all the bluefish and blackfish you want, with a little more cod coming in to the Block Island wrecks and ledges. Very large blues were feeding in the Race and Montauk waters, mixed with bass. Blackfish show no signs of quiting at Fisher's Island, and are in thick at Southwest Ledge. Unfortunately, very few boats have been able to make the runs due to rough water conditions.

MONTAUK

Captain Michael Potts reported good fishing on his last two trips of the season on the **Bluefin IV**. Monday's (11/25) catch included 24 bass, top weight 25 pounds, while on Friday, eight bass, the largest 47 pounds were caught by a group led by Art Schweithelm. This large fish, plus others (one of 25 pounds) fell to bucktails. Loads of bluefish were caught on both trips. Captain Potts wishes all his customers a happy holiday season and will be ready to fish cod the last week in March. Call over the winter to reserve prime dates.

Captain Jay Rigano found stripers at Shagwong on a few trips before the close of the season. On windy Saturday, a group of rug and floor installers from Westchester, Mike and Ray Sturino, Charlie DeLuca and Bill Rielly, bailed blackfish on the **Lori-Jay** in four foot seas at Southwest Ledge. Captain Jay related that most of the fish weighed between five and nine pounds, and were jumping on the bait on incoming tide. However, when the tide turned, and the seas increased, it became prudent to leave the fish biting and head back to **Star Island Yacht Club**. Total catch was 85 blacks with one cod fish lost at the boat.

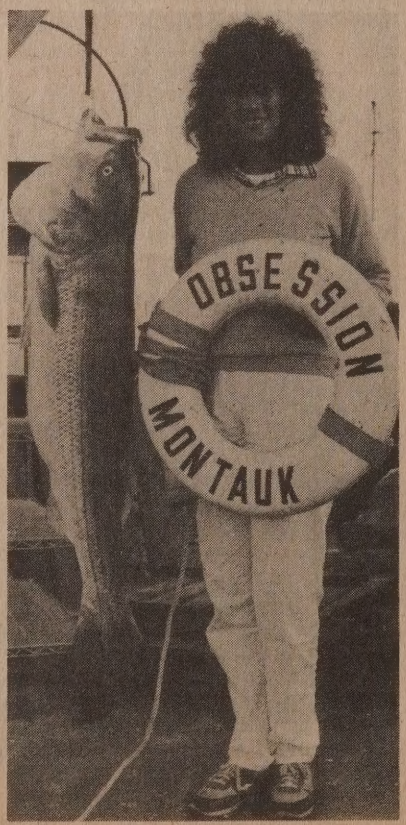
Captain Richie Rade will be sailing the **Marlin IV** on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the winter, with the exception of Christmas vacation, when the boat will fish daily. Last weekend, the boat fished on Saturday with a dozen anglers. Many blackfish were put onboard, many in the 9 to 11 pound range, with two over 13 pounds! About 15 cod fish were also caught, an increase from previous trips.

Captain King wishes his fellow fishermen and friends a happy holiday season. The **King Wayne** is now being repowered with twin turbo charged 640 Catterpillar engines, and will be back in action the beginning of April.

Although Friday's special wreck trip, and Sunday's regular trip were blown out, the **Viking Starship** did sail on Saturday, doing fairly well on cod according to Captain Steve Forsberg. Anglers managed two dozen school size cod working wrecks and ledges. Very good sea bassing remains, with many fish in the four to five pound range taken aboard. The boat is scheduled to sail on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays until the end of the year.

On the last trip of the bass season Saturday, two keepers were plucked from twenty taken aboard the charter boat **Montauk** on a half day trip, along with many gigantic bluefish. Earlier in the week bass to thirty pounds were caught in local Montauk waters. Now that the bass season has closed, Captain Mike Albronda will concentrate his efforts on blacks, blues an mackerel until the cod are in. Charters will be available through Christmas.

Captain John DeMaio of the **Vivienne** found bass fishing good all last week with an especially nice catch on Wednesday with 15 keepers, four of the fish were over thirty pounds with the largest 45 pounds. Best results were on trolled Sekora umbrella rigs with lime green and amber tubes working best.



Barbara Zalka decked this huge 61 lb. 2 oz. striper during an early September trip at Montauk. The big cow fell for a live eel.

SOUTH FORK

Captain Artie Lach will sail his last two trips on the **Wilhelric II** this weekend. This is your last chance to fill your freezers with blackfish. Don't miss out. The boat did not leave the dock on Sunday due to the blow, however, Saturday's trip to Fisher's Island found a few big fish, with pool fish 9½ pounds. Most anglers managed about a dozen fish. For reasons known only to blackfish, they were in a picky mood and unwilling to leap on the bait as related by anglers on the **Wilhelric II** and on other boats. Incidentally, despite the strong northeast winds on Saturday, water conditions at Fisher's Island were very calm since the Island blocked the wind. Sinker weights ranged from 4 to 16 ounces.

No fishing reports from **Speck's Bait and Tackle** from Thom, since most anglers have switched to hunting. Although sea ducks and geese are still in season, waterfowl season has been closed until December 12th.

Reports of flounder have come in from Deering Harbor and Greenport. There should be flounder action in Sag Harbor, Three Mile Harbor, as well as Heady Creek and Shinnecock (try Quogue Canal) when weather allows anyone to try.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

A steady dose of east winds along with plenty of rain washed away any plans that most anglers had for fishing over the long Thanksgiving weekend. Reports were sparse everywhere and non-existent in some places. Here's how the picture shaped up as a result of Monday's phoning.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

"A real quiet week aside from all the surf action," reported Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in Patchogue. Uncooperative weather kept boatmen in the barn and as a result, Paul had nothing in the way of flounder

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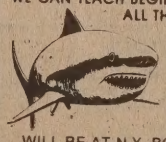
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reports. He did ask that we remind customers that the shop will be open for your Christmas shopping convenience until 8PM every night except Sunday when they will close at 6PM.

Over at **J&R Sports Center** in Oakdale Al Colban reported that the holiday weekend was a complete washout. Aside from surf news the only fishing activity concerned some flounder action off of Heckscher early last week. He, too, reminded that the shop is well equipped to handle any custom rod needs for that special Christmas gift. There is still time to order custom rods for Christmas.

Over at Captree, Carl Passero of the open boat **Miss Captree** said that due to popular demand, he will be switching back to blackfish, sailing 8AM Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays. He will continue to work the Fire Island ocean reef where on Monday, 7 fares put away more than 250 blackfish to 7 lbs. The skipper added that he also intends to mix in some codfishing when it looks worthwhile.

Captain Gordon Roman of the open boat **Captree Queen** reported real tough conditions through the long holiday weekend. Despite rough seas and rain, the boat did sail with light crowds on both Friday and Saturday. Each day saw 35 to 40 cod taken by the boat. Everyone who was able to stick it out at the rail managed a couple of fish. On Saturday, Steve Schipani decked a couple of nice cod and added a 30 lb. pollock as well. Most cod ranged from 10 to 18 lbs. with some in the mid-20s mixed in. Gordon reported that dogfish provided little interference both days on the wrecks they fished. In addition, a handful of sea bass, blacks and blues are mixed with the cod. Sunday was impossible to get offshore.

The crew from the Captree charter boat **Captain Andy** called and asked that we extend their thanks to all of

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their customers. They also wish everyone a happy holiday season and reminded that they are already accepting bookings for the 1986 season.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** in Babylon, Tom Healy had nothing to report since Thanksgiving and added that even when the weather cooperated earlier in the week, the flounder fishing was a tough pick at best. The only blackfish reports concerned some good catches made early last week on the Fire Island ocean reef. Tom added that the crew at Augie's would be more than happy to help you with some Christmas gift ideas. They will be open from 6AM to 6PM Monday through Saturday and 6AM to 3PM on Sunday.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** tabbed the long holiday weekend a complete washout. He did note that there was a fair pick of flatties early in the week to the west. He named Massapequa Cove, Squaw Island and Four Corners a good bet if you chummed heavy with mussels or clams. Locally, the flounder fishing has been poor. Mike also reminded the shop will remain open through the Christmas season until 6PM Monday through Saturday and 3PM on Sunday.

At **Z-Crab Tackle** in Copiague Chester Shew reported that all of the rotten weather kept anglers home over the holiday weekend. His only report concerned an 18½ lb. cod taken by Paul Griffin during a recent trip aboard the **Captree Queen**.

Frank Pristera of **Edelman's** in Farmingdale had nothing to report from the weekend due to the poor weather. He did know of some decent cod catches made early last week but had no word on the fishing since then. Concerning that action early last week, 19 year old Scott Molnar decked a 44 lb. cod while fishing above the hulk of the San Diego. The big cod established a new record for the species for the Surfside III Tuna Club.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

This has not been the best of weeks on the local fishing scene. With the water still surprisingly warm for this time of the year along with the winds and rain that hit us this week, inshore and offshore catches have been just picky to fair with the best news probably on the codfishing scene. Flounder action has been quite picky. Blackfish reports in this area have been non-existent but the cod boats

Mike Bove used a bunker chunk to connect with this 40 lb. striper in the Robert Moses surf. The big cow was weighed at J&R Sport Center in Oakdale.

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when they have been getting out have been getting upwards of 60 fish a day with fish averaging 10 to 15 lbs. and pools in the 30s.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Over in Wantagh, Mike at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** managed to come up with the only blackfish report of the week telling of very good catches at 17 Fathoms, fish up to 11 lbs. 2 oz., on green crab. He called the floundering picky in Merrick Bay and Squaw Island area with 5 to 10 fish per good angler working hard at it. Bloodworms were the preferred bait.

Gary at **Garan's Tackle** in Merrick described the flounder catches of his customers as picky for the whole week with a combination of roiled up water, crummy conditions and "slimosity" of the local flounder population this week.

From the Freeport area the word from Capt. Jim of the **Super Spray II** is that the codfishing has been good when he can get out. The fish are definitely there, said Jim, with high hooks being 5 to 7 fish each trip, despite the bad weather. Pools have been in the 30s and fish are averaging 10 to 15 lbs. All fishing has been on wrecks and there's lots of doggies around.

We hear from Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **StarStream II** that the weather has been stinko but the fishing has nonetheless been good. High hooks have 4 to 7 fish per trip and pools are ranging from 25 to 30 lbs. along with a scattering of sea bass and blues. The skipper predicted excellent codfishing once the weather settles and the seas calm and cool. On Saturday's trip 12 men at the rail pulled up 40 cod, 12 to 15 lbs. All wrecks.

Captain Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** asked us to let you know that just the **CL V** sailing two half day trips daily will be sailing now till Christmas. He also reminds you of his boat party. It will start at 8PM, Dec. 7th on the boat.

Over in Point Lookout, Capt. Al Lindroth of the **Captain Al** fished close in for cod Monday and Tuesday with fair to good results. Wednesday

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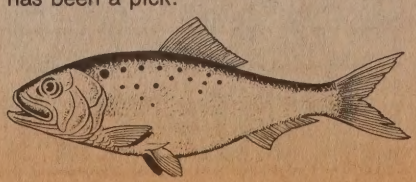
was the best day of the week as 10 fares winched in 52 cod. Steve Kearny of Massapequa had a 47 lber. Joe Golden on Monday had 7 fish. Fares are also taking a scattering of sea bass, blacks and blues. Al said skilled codfishermen are taking 5 to 10 fish a trip and pools are running into the 30s. He noted there are still some slammer blues around as the water refuses to yield to Old Man Winter. Thursday fares were picking to the tune of 4 to 5 cod a man but the day had to be cut short due to bad conditions. Al said that as the wind goes northwest, the codding should become excellent, and reminds us that a moving bait does not catch cod. It must be kept perfectly still. The only movement should be the up and down movement of the rod tip, allowing bait and sinker to stay stationary on the bottom.

Captains Walt and Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** extend their happy holiday greetings to all and announce that they will see you in the spring with the arrival of their brand new **Miss Point Lookout II** which is due to arrive from the builder in early March.

NEW YORK BIGHT

We hear from the open boat **Zephyr** out of Sheepshead Bay that the flounder fishing in his area has been very good this past week with Jamaica Bay hotspots such as Floyd Bennett and Silver Hole producing 20 to 50 fish a man, fish running 1/2 to 2 lbs. Captain Butch said the catches have been consistent with both mussels and worms producing best at different pieces of the tide.

Wee Willie at **Mike's Tackle**, across from the fleet advises that bluefishing remains good. All small fish at Seabright on diamond jigs with larger fish at 17 on bananas or bait. Blackfishing excellent at Scotland and Fisherman's buoy and some big ling taken at Scotland also. Floundering has been a pick.

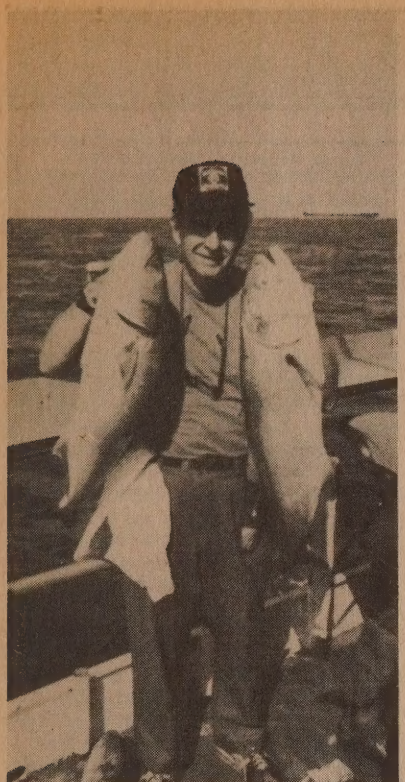


North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

Weather put a damper on late week fishing. With prevalent easterlies and building seas on the Sound, only larger crafts sailed after Thanksgiving. Nevertheless, a bass blitz ended the striper season at Eatons, and torrid tautog action closed the year for party craft from Greenport and Orient. The water temperature in the eastern Sound on December 1st was amazing 51.4 degrees f.

WESTERN SOUND

Jack's Bait on **City Island** was closing up on Sunday. The season had become too cold for flounder pound-



Sid Darion with two of 14 big blues he caught in mid-October aboard the Sheepshead Bay based, "Helen H."

ers and the tautog were in deeper waters now. All the private boats have been pulled from the marina. Dom Cerbone finished with a Saturday that was a little slow for the **Apache**. Dom Junior felt that the fish are still there but the crowds have been down in the rough weather. The **North Star** will be sailing through Sunday next, hoping for a break in the weather at Week's end. Fishing over the weekend for deepwater tautog on the Connecticut side had been "not bad" considering the circumstances..

This was the last weekend for fresh bait at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** although John Cacciola still has skimmers and frozen clam for awhile. There was a pick of flounder from Morgans Pond and Dosoris Creek with a few fish over a pound. All local fishing was from shore.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Billy Collins told us that Al Mott wrapped up the season on Friday with the **Ever Ready**. Small boats really couldn't reach the tautog over the weekend because of the big heave, five foot seas on incoming tide and eight foot seas on the outgoing off 11B. The pre-Thanksgiving finale on bass and blues was unbelievable with birds, bass, and slammers all over the

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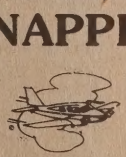

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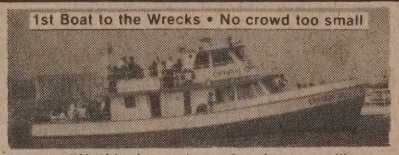

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top. Bill Mazur and Warren Lechler jigged 435 pounds of blues to 19 pounds plus four keeper bass from 8 pounds to 15.10. There were countless near keepers, too. George Valentine at **Four Winds** in **Huntington Station** expects to have bait worms through seasons end and green crab through next weekend. Bob Cedar at **Huntington Prop** has his last worms and green crabs now but will have stocks of frozen skimmer clams for a while.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in **Northport** has seen no local anglers for a week thanks to the easterlies. Frozen clams and the last of the worms are still available.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** in **Mount Sinai** was finishing up at the station and pulling the livery skiffs on Sunday. He still has a few dozen worms plus some green crabs, and there will be frozen bait for those hardies who want to practice on the winter beaches. Ralph himself expects to make a last trip later this week when the weather breaks.

A group of teenagers from the Sachem School Fishing Club in Lake Ronkonkoma tried their luck on the "Port Jeff Ace" for blacks on Sunday in very rough seas. While the group "paid the price" for fishing in wild sea conditions they did manage about three dozen blacks ranging to nint pounds, with many in the five to six pound range. Charles Noto, Cory McManus, Rich Pennachio, Ed Lane, and Mike and Anthony Coronato members of a die-hard fishing club, will soon be switching to cod.

Blackfish on local wrecks close to Port Jefferson has been steady, with nice size fish, some to 11 pounds caught over the weekend.

Lorry Mangan joined Tom Walsh of the Round Table and "Bobby Bait" Koliner for a shot at blackfish on Thanksgiving Eve finding very little action, with a few small fish near Buoy 11B. Before calling it a day, the trio decided to try some jigging at the drop-off at the buoy, although there was no sign of life (birds etc.). Jigging for only 1½ hours, the group boated sixteen bluefish from ten to sixteen pounds, six stripers from 6 to 20½ pounds and released 12 small bass. It was noted that the fish were feeding on tinker mackerel. The twenty pound bass will be mounted for Lorry by Creative Wildlife of Mastic, L.I.

Louis "Skin" Ferrara and Joe Russo teamed to take these stripers to 28½ lbs. near Rye, New York. They were taken on bunker chunks.

NORTH FORK

Ace Cottral of the **Port of Egypt** in **Southold** saw almost no anglers this past week, but one hardy soul managed a fourteen pound blue on a bunker chunk off McCabes. The last report on Sound flounder came from Orient one week ago. The station is going through its last worms and crabs now with no new orders placed.

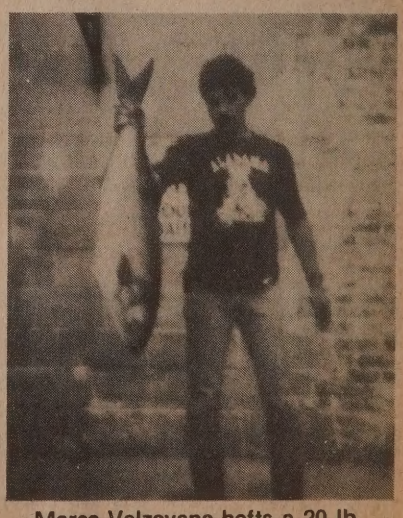
George Porter called to say that the **Brand X** finished the season with tautog by the hundreds on Friday and Saturday. "The water was 51.4 degrees on Saturday, and we just began to catch them good at 52 degrees! The season is just now beginning, but the weather kills us. We could have packed the boat...but we had 19 on Friday and only 31 on Saturday! The best fish of the past two weeks were Cheryl Murphy's 14.2 and Fred Wheeler's 13.8, and these bulldogs were only part of loads of fish over ten pounds.

Dan Buckley of the **Nancy Ann II** also wrapped up the season on Saturday, along with Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star**. Said Buckley, "It couldn't get any better. The fishing was everything we'd hoped for. It's just that the carrying was so slow."

Richie Jensen of the **Nancy Ann** finished the season with a tautog trip on Saturday, but the highlight of the week was a bass trip down off Gardiner's on Monday. Richie had a 41 pound linesider taken trolling with Bob Spitzenberg on the winch, and the boat trolled loads of bluefish, too. The fleet pulled three 50's on that particular day.

John Rainis was home for the holidays, and Anna May Rainis said that there were still decisions to make in setting up for the next season with the **Blue Albatross**.

Saturday's dismal weather conditions was livened up by a end of season party thrown by Captain Dave Brennan for his customers on the **Peconic Star** while fishing for blacks at Fisher's Island. Between sandwiches and refreshments, Gasper Mastrobuoni, Phil Grosso, and Barry Guodoras managed fifty fish between them, with Barry taking the pool with a ten pound black. Phil won a hat, plus second place in the pool.



Marco Valzovano hefts a 20 lb. 14 oz. bluefish taken in Huntington Harbor aboard the open boat, "Ever Ready II." Photo courtesy of Four Winds Bait and Tackle.

Drawings were held for valuable prizes and were won by Vito Mannino, George Mallenius, Jose Ares, and Angel Cruz. While the blackfish were a bit picky, most anglers managed from 3 to 17 each, all fish taking green crabs. The **Peconic Star** will be ready for action in April for flounder.

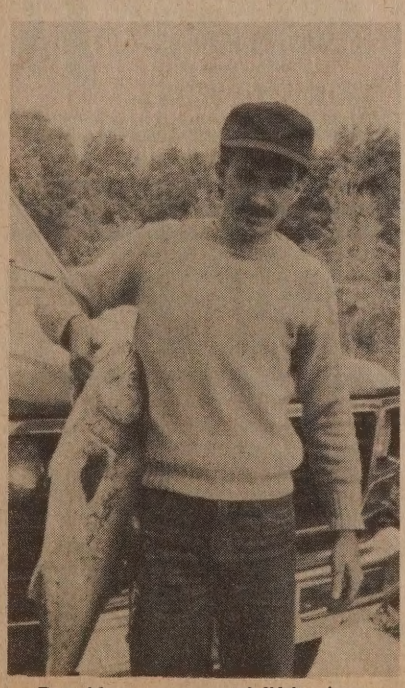
Surf REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Last week's surf report made reference to some hot action under way at several south shore locations as we gathered information early Monday morning. While the reports were encouraging, few people suspected that the action would continue to build and provide casters with the grandest finale in memory. It appeared that every south shore beach was saturated with big blues and there were enough big stripers around to make the action that much sweeter. We will expand on this memorable week of surf action in an upcoming feature article, but for now we will let the reports speak for themselves.

At **J&B Bait and Tackle** in Patchogue, Paul Graniello was still shaking his head in disbelief and uttering phrases like I've never seen anything like it, when we spoke Monday morning. Adding to an already impressive list of big stripers reported in last week's issue, were numerous bass in the 30 to 50 lb. range taken primarily along the Moriches shore and west into the Fire Island communities. According to Paul everyone had enough big bluefish to last them a lifetime if they fished on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. But it was the big stripers that were mixed with the blues that really spiced the blitz and drew literally hundreds of surf casters to the beaches under poor weather conditions during the last week of November. Among the hordes of casters who left the beach arm weary from hauling big blues were Mike Maple and John Magnus who fished in front of the pavilion at Smith Point Monday morning. The pair kept 20 blues to 16 lbs. and released a pile of fish as well. Dave Mehrtens and Gordon Seaberry stopped at 2 dozen big blues, the best of which weighed a hefty 18 lbs. This, too, was on Monday in front of the pavilion.

Moving along to some of the bass tallied during the week: Jack Morgan trekked down to Fire Island Pines where he has access due to a builder's permit. He returned to J&J with a striper that tipped the scales at 57 lbs. Monday evening saw Ed Nickle parlay a green Gibbs needlefish into stripers of 47.8 and 52.4 lbs. Both were taken in front of the ranger station shortly after dark. On Tuesday, a trio of casters headed by Tom Kelhenbeck of the Patchogue Fishing Club used tins and red tubes to work over a school of stripers west of FINS. The trio accounted for somewhere between 25 and 30 stripers, releasing fish up into the high teens. The five they kept for weighing checked in at 28, 31, 33, 38 and 42 lbs. Also on Tuesday, John Loughlin clicked with a 33 lb. striper. Mike Ohea used a Hopkins in front of the FINS entrance to take a 36 lber. Raul De La Cruz checked in on Tuesday with a 39 lb. cow taken at Robt. Moses parking field 4. On Wednesday the parade of fish to the scales continued, George Corwin stunned everyone by beaching what he figured to be nearly 50 stripers from shorts and schoolies up to 42 lbs. Included in his score were two fish in the 20 lb. class, four in the 30 lb. class and two in the 40 lb. class. He used diamond jigs fitted with green tubes and worked to the west of FINS. ALso on Wed. Joann Hagerty used a Jr. Atom swimmer to take the first striper of her young surf career. She won't soon forget the fish either as the cow tipped the scale at 46 lbs. Richie Orsinger came within a whisker of joining the 50 lb. club with a 49.9 lb. cow taken in front of the ranger station at FINS. While the action diminished considerably by Thanksgiving morning, some nice stripers along with a pick of blues continued. Rudy Pinka, Jr. used a black needlefish to nail a 36 lb. striper. Richie Simmons used a green needle to bag an 18 lber. A big sweep, strong east winds and building seas created tough conditions on the weekend, but still there were flurries of blues along with an occasional bass just west of Moriches Inlet near Great Gun Beach. On Friday, 15-yr. old Jason Remien used a Hopkins to take a 20.8 lb. striper there. On Saturday, John Ziska, another newcomer to the surf used a Hopkins to bag a 35 lb. cow in front of the Smith Point Pavilion. Shinnecock Inlet-west side also had its quota of blues and bass, but fishing here apparently continued late Friday and through Saturday morning as well according to reports received by Paul.



Dan Kroeger earned fifth place in the recently concluded, Fisherman sponsored Surf Bluefish Derby with this 14 lb. 15 oz. chopper.

Robert Moses Parking Field 4 played host to hundreds of casters ove the course of "the big blitz." A number of notable stripers were taken here as well although many went unreported. Among those taken Thursday morning at field 4 were a 42 lb. cow beached by Pete Giacalone. He used a S27 jig and tube combo. Alongside him was Andy Teresho. Andy came through with a 34 lb. cow. While crowds gathered at Robt. Moses Frank Hay had most of Gilgo Beach to himself. He took advantage of the situation long enough to nail a 50 lb. cow on a yellow Musso needlefish Wednesday morning. Frank landed his first striper ever just a few short weeks back. It weighed 38 lbs. and he spent little time breaking the 50 lb. barrier.

As I mentioned earlier, bluefish accounted for the bulk of the action for the vast majority of casters Working parking field 4 on Tuesday, my brother Steve stopped counting at 45 blues. At FINS, Great South Bay Anglers Club members Lou Pagnoni, Neil Sluiter and Marty Beer beached over 100 blues from 10 to 17½ lbs. On Wednesday, Harold Keyes and Charlie Hollins beached at least 60 big blues, most of which were released.

Tom Healy at **Augie's Tackle Shop** in Babylon reiterated on the red hot action at Robt. Moses field 4 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He also confirmed the bass action of Thanksgiving morning. Tom got in on the action Tuesday afternoon and wore himself out on blues and one bass. Phil Jenkins caught the start of a blitz Monday morning and needed less than an hour to put away 5 big blues before calling it quits.

Tons of blues along with a nice showing of bass was the word from Mike Nicoletti of **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in Wantagh. Blues were spread through the Jones Beach surf and west through Atlantic Beach but the bulk of the bass reports came from parking field 6, Jones Beach according to Mike. Wednesday saw the bulk of the bass catches made with Steve Petri, Jr. leading the way with cows of 34 and 54.10 lbs. Steve used a black needlefish at field 6. Also Wednesday Tom Loney used a black Gibbs needle to take a 21 lb. bass. The same lure took a 14 lb. bass for George Cook. Joe Klozek nailed a 13 lb. striper at

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#6, while Leonard Maggiore used a red tube and tin combo to take a 20 lb. bass. Also on Wedneday Tom Duffy checked in a 19.5 lb. bluefish. One anonymous caster weighed a 35 lb. striper on Wednesday and another of 17.4 lbs. on Thursday. Both were taken on needlefish. There was quite a bit of bass action on Tuesday as well as evidenced by the 40 lber. taken by a local bartender. Also, "Wheelin" Willie had quite an introduction to surf fishing at field #6 on Tuesday. His first 2 bass in the suds weighed 15 and 35 lbs. The same day, Bobby Turturello of the shop and two friends clicked with 24 bass of which 5 were keepers up to 12 lbs. Tuesday morning saw lots of shorts in the Jones Beach wash with bigger fish making their showing later that day and Wednesday.

Over at **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** in Lynbrook, Charlie Beckmann recorded 43.14 lb. cow bass for High Hill Striper Club member Bob Morrotta of Baldwin . Bob took his fish at Pt. Lookout on Wednesday. Also on Wednesday Kevin Finn weighed a 16¾ lb. bluefish

Working back to the east again Tom Speckenbach of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in Southampton reported heavy bluefish action with some bass mixed in along local beaches through much of last week. He weighed a 43 lb. striper on Monday taken on the east side of Shinnecock. On Friday, a 26 lb. bass along with a report of others being taken came from the same area.

Out in Montauk, Johnny Kronuch who is now closed for the season but continues to keep tabs on the local surf scene, reported some good fishing at the Point over the past week. He knew of a couple of 40 lb. class stripers taken earlier in the week between False Bar and North Bar. Bob Aaron clicked with three big fish on Monday night. On Friday night, Stuart Heath nailed a 40 lb. cow at False Bar just at dark. There were plenty of blues along the sand beach during the week and as recently as Saturday morning. Big blues showed up on Shagwong Wednesday morning while smaller fish kept casters occupied at Ditch Plains.

Up on the north shore, Stan Henschel of **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported that all of the local gang have been haunting south shore beaches this past week. All have been sharing in the hot fishing. Among some of his regulars who got in on the FINS blitz were a group of East End Surf Club members. Glenn Just, Don and Rich Meola, Bob Galli and John Paduano needed just a couple of hours to beach and release more than 700 lbs. of blues. They also had a taste of striper action. John clicked with a 28 lber., Bob nailed a 25, while Glenn settled for an 18 lb. bass. This all took place Tuesday morning.

One final note. With all the big bass and blues being reported, it's easy to overlook smaller but not any less significant fish. A note from George

Butler asked that we mention Maria Midonia's first-ever fish from the surf, a 4½ lb. blue taken at Smith Point.

Freshwater REPORT with Tom Schlichter

Freshwater reports were few and far between this week as angler effort continues to decrease with the onset of more winter-like weather.

Bobby Turturello of **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in **Wantagh**, reports that he is still selling killies to a few anglers but no one has reported back on any action. He asked me to let readers know that **Causeway** will carry killies throughout the winter months.

Over at **Edelman's Sportsman's Center** in **Farmingdale**, Fred Lagger told of a few largemouth bass taken in Lural Lake and the Peconic River system. Bob Schmidt worked floating Rebel minnows and a gold Theode Spoon to connect with three bass and fifteen pickerel on the Peconic River early in the week. He also used a float rig and worms to take five crappies.

From **J&R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, Dave Canale reported that 15 year old Matt Potestio caught two brookies at Bubbles Falls on worm baits. There are still quite a few small trout being culled from this location and a few fish in the one to two pound range have been taken as well. Still no white perch in Connetquot River.

Fred Kruse of **Pine Grove Outfitters** told us that local kids have been catching plenty of white perch in Lake Ronkonkoma on those days when the weather permits fishing. The best of this action has been centered between the nursing home and 7-11 store on the north side of the lake and behind the Bavarian Inn. Worms have been the best bait. A few anglers also connected with bass on the big lake this week with several fish in the four pound class reported. Live worms have had the best of this action as well.

The rest of our regular contributors reported either slow freshwater fishing this week or not enough feedback to make a determination. Since it looks as though the majority of action is over for now, we'll rap up this column for the season and pass along any other freshwater information in the appropriate "fishing report" section of **The Fisherman**. The freshwater column will resume early next spring. A big thanks to all who contributed.

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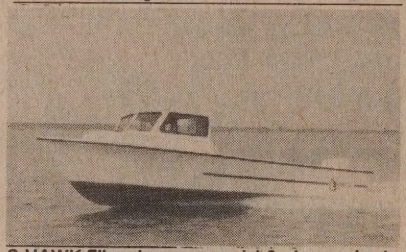

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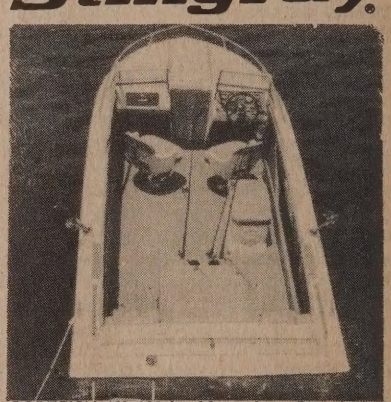

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EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE CORP., 210 Bch. 2nd St., Lawrence, NY 11691; 718-327-3168.

29 TOPAZ 1985, twin Volvo TAMD40B diesels, FWC, AM/FM cassette stereo, batt. charger, bow pulpit, cabin fan, compass, Halon, Y-valve head w/shower, radio box, refrig., washdown, tower lights, T/T, tower w/controls, wipers, canvas encl., tower cover, custom tackle lockers/cabinet seats w/cushions, C-Master V, Horizon Int VHF, Lowrance X-16, Si-Tex T100 radar. Dytek temp, Lowrance 3200 digital, Epirb, Micron bottom paint. ATLANTIC SPORT FISHING, Pt. Pleasant, 201-899-1800.

1971 42 Hatteras, Sportfish. 1981 VT903, 1/2 tower. Rybo riggers, Furuno radar, Rybo chair, plotter. Everything for fishing. $149,000.
1981 28' Bertram, TMD 40s, radar, Loran, outriggers. $70,000. SEA JAC, 728-4220/6627.

1956 40' MAINE Built Sportfisherman, twin 471 diesels. Documented. Tuna tower, 3 fight chairs, radar, Loran, paper recorder, VHF. Fishing equip.-shark rigs, etc. Built-in color TV, stereo. Canyon capable. Quick sale. $15,000. Recent survey. 957-2657.

1976 23 Penn Yan, 1976, 225
1974 28 Luhrs, single engine
1974 28 Uniflite Salty Dog, tower
1981 28 Bertram FB, TMD 40
1969 31 Bertram, Sportfish
1966 31 Bertram Bahia Mar
1976 31 Bertram FB. Great shape
1962 31 Bertram Express Cruiser
1969 34 Post, wood
1971 42 Hatteras 1981 VT903 Fish equip.
SEA JAC, 728-4220/6627.

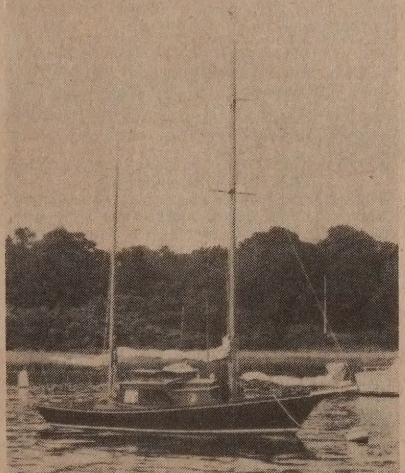
17' SWAMPSCOTT Power Dory, Maine Built 1984. Never used. Best offer over $1000. Eves: 698-2326.

21' WINNER Viscount '73, 120 Mercruiser I/O, cuddy. New canvas; just overhauled. Asking $5788. 516-249-0107.

1965 BERTRAM FBC 330 Chryslers. Lookin' for the classic Austin Healy in a boat? This is the one. Like new cond. $48,000. You won't find one cleaner. SEA JAC, 516-728-4220/6627.

SEACRAFT 20' CC, 120hp, FWC, electronics, outriggers, downrigger, teak trim, Ritchie compass, galv. tandem trailer, pwr winch. $5900. Days: 516-273-9200. Eves: 516-273-9349.

1983 20' Cuddy cabin Sportcraft, 1983 90 hp Evinrude. Many extras. Mint cond. $12,900. 516-795-7058.



27' L.O.D. Sharpie Ketch 1958. Built L.I. Cedar on oak. Fully found & fully equip. Located Port Jefferson, LI. Days: 516-928-2220. Best offer.

82 GRADY WHITE 24', Sea Drive Walkaround. All set for family/fishing use. Bow fight. chair, Si-Tex chart & Loran, Polaris VHF/RDF, Aqua Mate 550 digital depth, Dysan temp, 2 anchors, T/T. Teak dive platform, stereo. Camper cover. 150 gal. gas, oil injection & hydraulic steering. In water on LI near Babylon. $24,900. Eves: 718-596-0950.

1984 SHAMROCK Pilot House 20'. Canvas; 150 hrs. Loran X-15, VHF radio, CB. Must sell. Bought larger boat. 516-567-2973/2206.

DUSKY 26' wide body 1983 Twin 235s. Tuna door, T-Top, encl. V-900 color, 1350 WL, Loran, digital, Dytek. Life raft, winch, full chair, tackle locker 400 gal. fuel. Bristol cond. $42,000. 203-434-8629.

RENKEN 80 17' Bowrider, 120 FWC Volvo, w/Galv. trailer, P/Winch, DF, CB, compass. Garage kept. Mint. 16700. 516-795-4269.

1982 MARINER 15 hp Long shaft w/6 gal. tank. Like new cond. $950. 516-473-7391.

19' ALINDALE 1975 open fiberglass fishing skiff. W/Motorwell. Unbelievably stable. $1000. Eves: 718-470-0473.

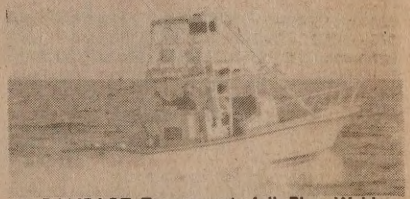
1983 SPORTCRAFT 22.4' Walkaround cuddy cabin. Evinrude 175 hp w/SS Prop & spare, 15 hp kicker. Dual batt.-new late '83. Fully equip for bay to offshore fishing for sharks, bluefish, school tuna. All engine instrumentation. Loran C, VHF, Lowrance X-15, digital depthmeter. Penn swivel downriggers, Bennett T/T. Full canvas; CG safety equip. Anchor line, 50# BG tackle & lures/rigs. Outriggers, flying gaff, pro tail rop. Porta-Potti; 5'' TV. Portable fishing chair. Sleeps max. 2 adults & 1 child. Great weekend home away from home! Boat in Freeport. High & dry paid for till 4/86. Lost job; must sell! $18,500. 201-326-9662.

EVINRUDE

WE'LL BEAT ANY DEALER'S advertised price—and service it, too! AL GROVER'S, Freeport, 516-378-0510.

LUHRS 340—offers more standard features than any other Sportfisherman in her class, incl. the welded aluminum tower, compl. w/console. In stock. Also dealers for Sportcraft—IMP—OMC Sea Drive; OMC Stern Drive; Johnson; Mercruiser. SPELLMAN'S MARINE, 1708 North Hwy, Southampton, NY 11968; 516-283-7907.

1981 32'X10½' DOWN EAST-Haul 1'' mahogany plank 5/4''X2'' 8'' OC ribbing, 6V53N. Less than 700 hrs. VHF, 2 fish finders, North Star 800, Loran, Interphase to Robertson auto pilot, 2000 lb. insulated fish box. Excl. 6-man charter boat, etc. Boat A-1 cond. $36,000 Firm. 914-738-1249. After 6PM.



24' RAMPAGE Tournament, full Pipe Welders tower, VHF, chart recorder, Volvo 260 I/B. This boat is loaded & ready for serious fishing. Many other Rampages in stock. NORTHROP YACHT SALES, 203-226-1915.

1982 SHAMROCK Pilot House, 20' Camper canvas, 302 Pleasurecraft, 160 hrs. T/T, new Loran, new VHF, digital DF & much more. 516-727-1113/2511. Bruce.

SUZUKI OUTBOARDS
More run for your money.

SUZUKI Outboards 2-200 hp, MC KEE CRAFT unsinkable boats. Nova & Ampac inflatables. Summer dockage; winter storage. KREMER'S BOATYARD, Seaford, 516-221-8877.

Continued On Next Page

SEA CRAFT 20, SF CC, 150 hp Evinrude. Depth finder, VHF. Outrigger, downrigger. New canvas. In water. $7500. Days: 516-283-2047. Eves: 516-283-2839.

STARCRAFT 22' Deep V cuddy 1982, 140 OMC. Loaded. Well maintained. DAVE BOFILL Marine, 516-283-6736.

STRIKER Canyon Runner 34', 1975, T555s. Etta Mae has all electronics & fishing equip. Days: 516-349-1700. Eves: 516-826-8370.

USED 671n GM Diesel. Compl. w/Allison 1.5:1 gear. MONTAUK MARINE BASIN INC., 516-668-5900.

1972 22.2 AQUASPORT CC. Yard maintained. Electronic box plus many extras. Need engine. $3000. Eves: 718-531-3464.

One pr. Chris Craft engines 327 Q, motors approx. 1100 hrs. Run like clocks. Incl. 2½ to 1 Paragon clutches & mechanical tachometers. Compl. FWC, heavy duty cast iron pans, etc. Asking $2000 for both. POLYCHRON MARINA, 914-632-4088. Ask for Brett or Leroy.

1973 MARLIN, Aluminum trailer. Full mooring cover. Excl. cond. $2500. 516-277-5185.

All 1985 EVINRUDES—Sale prices w/extended warranties. MARINELAND, Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

1979 25' BLACKFIN, twin Volvo diesels, w/tower. Full electronics. Mint! $39,000. 516-378-5072.

27' PHOENIX 1980 225 Chrysler engines. Tower. Loaded offshore fishing machine. Priced to sell. Days: 212-246-4074. Nites: 516-997-7438.

31' BERTRAM
1980 Twin Diesel 400 hrs. Radar, Loran, VHF, recorder. Digital depth, temperature, T/T. Constavolt, speed log, washdown. Outriggers, gin pole, 2 Pompanette chairs. Replacement $150,000. Save thousands. Very clean. 516-242-3642.

REGAL 1984 20' Empress 200 XL, cuddy. Sleeps 4. 228 Mercruiser. Loaded; immaculate. 516-481-5579.

1979 30' TROJAN, 2 FWC engs. Flybridge, Bimini top. Sleeps 6. VHF radio, 2 DF, Loran C. Low hrs., etc. Must sell. New boat coming. Best offer over $30,000. 718-625-3921/494-0015.

GARCIA Recorder Fish Finder. Compl. w/transducer. Very good. Will Demo. $125. 781-3939.

1985 4 WINNS 23' Family Cruiser, 200 hp Mercruiser. Loaded w/extras. 11 hrs. old. Slip incl. $18,995 terms avail. 516-924-0035.

BOATING EQUIP.

2 POMPANETTE Fighting chairs w/footrests. $500 ea. Both in excl. cond. 516-795-6645.

PROPELLERS-3. Nichrome 16/17. Completely reconditions. 1-1/8" shaft. Fits 28 Bertram. $300. 516-746-2508. Larry.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 718-426-7039.

RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS, INC., 377 Woodcleft Av, Freeport, NY; 516-623-4421.

BOAT TRAILERS: EZ Loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate Del. Priced right. Trailer Hitches installed. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY. 516-676-5313.

TRAILER HITCHES—The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock on Long Island. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

VHF, Regency Polaris Model NC7200 w/direction finder. Used 1 season. $550. S.S. B, Seatron Model SSB100-$300. 9-5: 516-379-6700.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

VHF/FM radio, Horizon Ltd. Model 861S. 24 channel; 8" Shakespeare antenna. Extra rail mount. Like new-$150. 516-223-0676.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., INC., 1121-16 Lincoln Av, Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

HERCULES 6 cy. Diesel & Gears. Running cond. Recently bench tested. Will trade for fishing gear or $650. Bill: 516-567-4104/668-3509.

CUSTOM MARINE WOODWORK. No job too small—tackle lockers, instrument enclosures, consoles, bow pulpits, etc. Interior & exterior repairs & restorations. CUSTOM MARINE CARPENTRY, 516-623-1639.

SI-TEX RECORDER Fish Finder Model HE-30. Almost new. Original carton. No transducer. $125. 266-3697 or 349-2810. Mr. Schwartz.

FISHING TACKLE

FOR SALE
1 Penn Internat'l 130H w/custom bent butt rod-$900; 1 Penn Internat'l 80W w/custom bent butt rod-$750; 1 Fin-Nor light 50 lb. reel w/custom straight butt, 80 lb. rod-$500; 1 Penn Internat'l 12 reel-$175; 4 Fin-Nor light 50 lb. reels-$275 ea.; 1 Fin-Nor light 30 lb. reel-$250. All equip. in top cond., under warranty & in original boxes. Most purchased new in '85. 516-354-2674.

DALE CLEMENS Custom Rod Bldg. Supplies exclusively at LINDENHURST BAIT & TACKLE. Extra 10% discount w/Ad. 226-9030.

VERY EXPENSIVE—Very Expensive—Very Expensive. Edelman's is NOT very expensive. See ad on Page 2.

DEADLY FLOUNDER RIGS
Tangle-free, tandem tied w/special stand-off knot. Used by sharpies. Sproat hooks for more hook-ups. 3/$3.75 inc. p/h. BILL SMITH, 159 Vermont Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706.

MOLDED ROD WINDING "Vee Blocks" High impact material, will not scratch any rod blank. Clearance for largest guide; fine enough for the smallest. Set of 2 w/instructions & mounting hardware. Free bonus—tension device hardware. $10 prepaid check or M.O.: R.A.F. TRADING CORP., 101 Albany Av, Dept. F, Freeport, New York 11520.

KUSTOM KRAFT RODS. Order now for Xmas. Bluefish/weakfish rods a specialty. Repairs. Eves: 421-1337.

MUSTAD HOOKS & Other Fine Tackle at sensible prices. Free catalog. TERMINAL TACKLE CO., Box 427, Kings Park, NY 11754.

MISCELLANEOUS

WELDING, Aluminum, stainless, casting, repairs. Custom T-Tops, towers, radar-arches, railings. 516-581-4205/589-3719.

DO YOU like codfishing in New England? Then The Fisherman has a book for you. "Codfishing in New England" w/16 chap., covers both inshore & offshore, from Block Isl. to Kennebunkport, Ma. Price $4 + $.65 post. CT Res add $.25 tax. Send check or M.O. to: THE FISHERMAN, P.O. Box 211, 2 Denison Av, Mystic, CT 06355.

WELDING, custom fabricating, repairs, trailers, towers, cooler racks, T-tops, etc. Stainless, aluminum. E&B, 516-265-6915/1478.

BAYHEAD MARINA: Winter storage, boats & motors. All winter services avail. Factory certified mechanics. 718-525-5724.

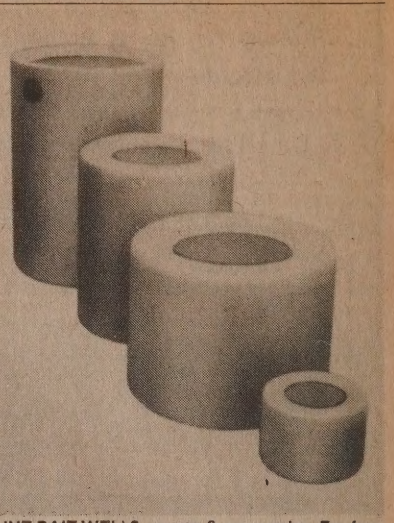
FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—water deliveries, boat/navigation instruction; charters & trips. 516-795-4498.

HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

WINTER STORAGE
Up to 28'. Winterizations. Mercruiser, OMC. Parts; service. Authorized Volvo Penta dealer. HARBOR MARINE CORP., Copiague. 789-8789.

DEER BUTCHERING
Legal game heads for sale. INWOOD TAXIDERMY, 20 Madison Ave., Inwood, NY 11696; 516-239-7716.

WANTED: Reliable netter to supply me with freshly caught sand eels & shiners. 281-4159. Delivered Suffolk area.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

LIVE BAIT EELS
Available to retailers & fishermen at wholesale prices. $1 per lb.; 10 lb. minimum. Stock up now. 516-581-3563.

LICENSE PLATE FRAME says it for you. "I'd Rather Be Fishing." Non-rusting, hi-impact, black polystyrene w/raised white letters. 1-$4.95; 2-$8.95 + $1 p/h. Send ck or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566. Satisfaction guaranteed.

MERCRUISER ENGINES & Sterndrives repaired, overhauled & winterized. Rebuilt outdrives for sale. HIGHLAND MARINE, 516-587-7567.

Do you like codfishing in New England? Then The Fisherman has a book for you. "Codfishing in New England," with 16 chapters, covers both inshore & offshore, from Block Isl. to Kennebunkport, MA. Price $4 + $.65 for postage. Ct. Res. add $.25 tax. Send check or M.O. to: THE FISHERMAN, P.O. Box 211, 2 Denison Av, Mystic, CT 06355 TFN

GOVERNMENT JOBS $16,040-$59,230/Yr. Now hiring. 805-687-6000, Ext. R-3617 for current Federal list.

RECORDER PAPER at substantial savings. Prices for 6 rolls: Si-Tex 4"-$23. Lowrance X-15-$24. All others avail. p/h $2.50 addt'l. NJ res. add 6% sales tax. Send check or M.O. to: JP PAPER CO., P.O. Box 149, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442. 201-838-9324.

FISHING FOR FLUKE by Don Kamienski. Packed w/info on drifting, trolling & locating fluke, baits, rigs, "dropback," casting lures, bay, river, ocean methods. 112 pp. Many diagrams. $4.95 + $1 shipping. THE FISHERMAN LIBRARY, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Bricktown, NJ 08724.

REAL ESTATE

RENTAL—Florida. Key Kargo waterfront 2BR house/ac. Close to Pennekamp Coral Reef Park. Swimming, snorkeling, backcountry & ocean fishing. Week, monthly. After 5PM: 914-356-4297.

GETAWAY TO MONTAUK: Magnificent ocean-view apartment. Sleeps 6. Kitchenette, pool, maid service. Week; month; season. Pam: 516-543-3232.

BEACH BUGGIES

1972 GMC 3/4 ton Truck, 4WD, 1972 Mobile Traveler slide-in camper. Sleeps 6. Refrig, 3-burner stove & oven. Shower; self-contained toilet. Extra storage. Low 60,000 miles; 350 engine. 4 speed transmission; 8 cyl. Rigged for fishing. $5500. 516-546-0299/277-4472.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	1:05	1:10	1:55	2:10	1:40	1:45	2:55	3:05	4:15	4:35	4:30	4:50	1:10	1:35	12/5
FRI.	2:05	2:15	2:55	3:10	2:35	2:50	3:50	4:10	5:15	5:40	5:25	5:50	2:10	2:35	12/6
SAT.	3:10	3:25	3:55	4:10	3:35	3:55	4:45	5:10	6:15	6:50	6:25	6:50	3:05	3:30	12/7
SUN.	4:10	4:25	4:50	5:10	4:40	5:00	5:35	6:05	7:15	7:55	7:20	7:50	4:00	4:25	12/8
MON.	5:05	5:25	5:45	6:05	5:35	6:00	6:25	7:00	8:15	8:55	8:15	8:45	4:55	5:20	12/9
TUES.	5:55	6:20	6:35	7:00	6:25	6:55	7:20	7:50	9:10	9:55	9:05	9:40	5:50	6:10	12/10
WED.	6:50	7:10	7:30	7:55	7:15	7:45	8:10	8:45	10:05	10:50	10:00	10:35	6:50	7:05	12/11
THURS.	7:35	8:00	8:20	8:45	8:10	8:40	9:00	9:35	11:00	11:45	10:55	11:30	7:30	7:55	12/12

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 12/5	7:12	4:28
FRI. 12/6	7:13	4:29
SAT. 12/7	7:14	4:29
SUN. 12/8	7:15	4:29
MON. 12/9	7:16	4:29
TUE. 12/10	7:17	4:29
WED. 12/11	7:18	4:29

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 12/5	—	12:49PM
FRI. 12/6	12:24AM	1:12PM
SAT. 12/7	1:36AM	1:36PM
SUN. 12/8	2:50AM	2:03PM
MON. 12/9	4:08AM	2:33PM
TUE. 12/10	5:28A8	3:10PM
WED. 12/11	6:50AM	3:57PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
12/12	11/19	11/27	12/5

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	11:10	**5:00**	11:40	**5:25**
Fri.	11:55	**5:45**	—	**6:10**
Sat.	12:25	**6:25**	12:35	**6:50**
Sun.	1:05	**7:10**	1:20	**7:40**
Mon.	1:55	**8:00**	2:10	**8:30**
Tues.	2:45	**8:55**	3:05	**9:25**
Wed.	3:40	**9:50**	4:00	**10:25**
Thurs.	4:40	**10:50**	5:00	**11:25**

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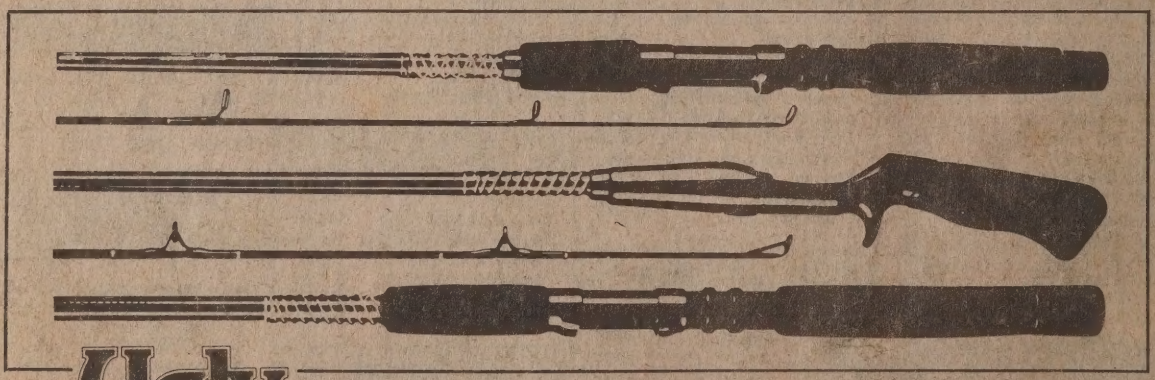

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